

ENGLISH READER

CLASS - III



(English Medium)

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STRANGE FRIENDS

1. Once a circus came to the city of London. It was a large one. There were many wild animals which performed wonderful tricks. It attracted large crowds. But there were many poor people who could not see the circus. They did not have money to pay for the tickets.

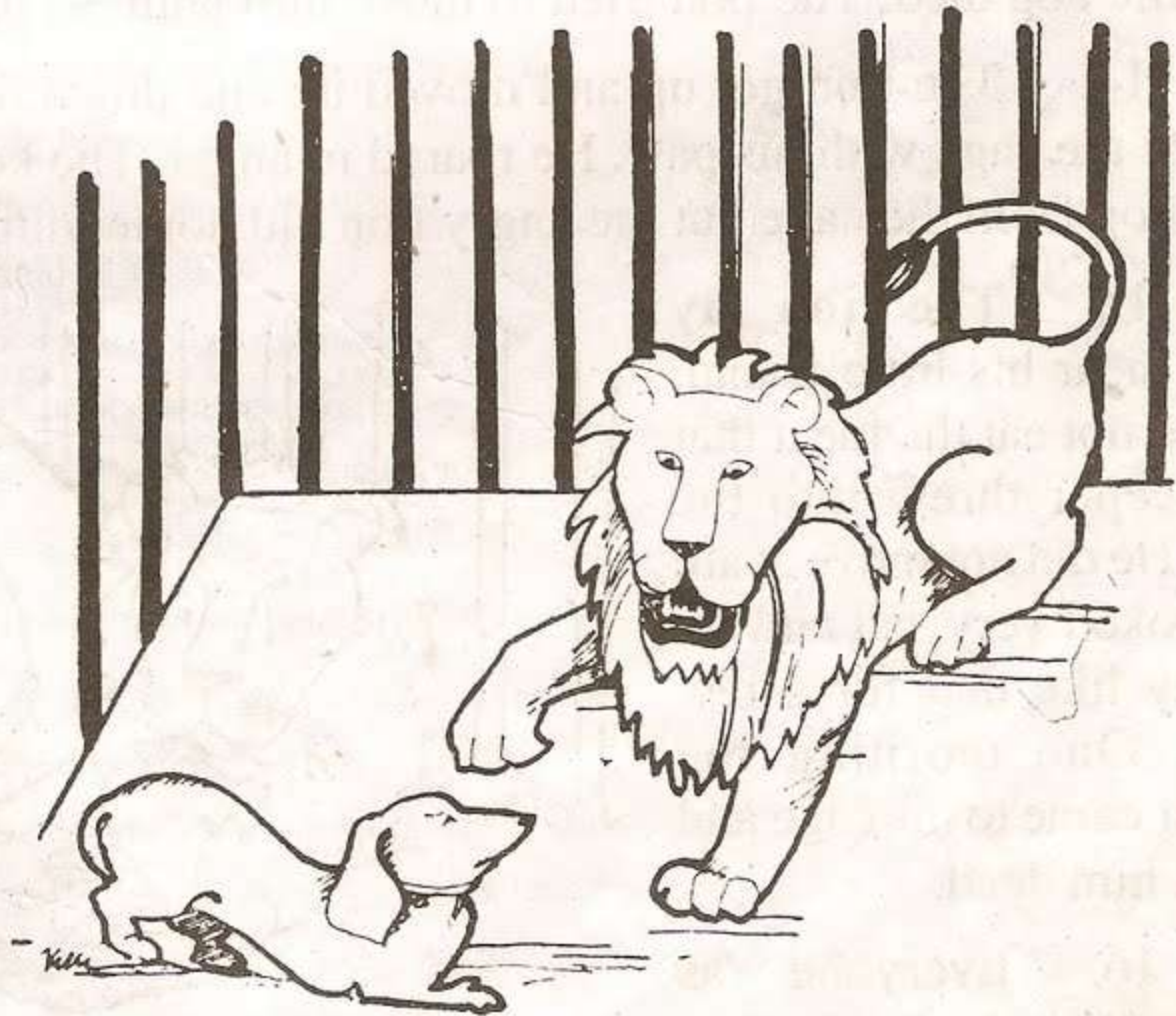
2. After a few days the circus manager found that very few people came to watch the circus. So he said, "If you can't give me money, bring me little animals. I'll let you see the circus". So some poor people brought him little animals. He let them watch the circus and gave the little animals to the hungry wild animals.

3. One evening a poor man found a little dog in the street. "It's alone. Perhaps it has no master," he thought. He picked it up and took it to the circus. The circus people threw the little dog into a lion's cage. They let the man watch the circus.

4. In the lion's cage the tiny dog looked at the fierce lion and shook with fear. He ran to a corner of the cage and stood there with his tail between his hind legs.

5. The lion walked upto him and sniffed at him. The little dog rolled over on his back with his tiny paws in the air. He wagged his little tail with terror in his eyes.

6. The lion shook him with his large paw and turned him over. The dog was on his feet again and sat on his hind legs. The lion looked at him and saw the terror in his eyes. Slowly he moved away. A little later the keeper threw a large piece of meat to the lion. The lion tore a small piece of it and dropped it before the dog. The two animals had their meal.



7. In the evening the lion lay down to sleep. The little dog lay beside him with his tiny head on the lion's paw !

8. They became good friends. They ate and played together. And every evening the little dog slept beside the lion, resting his head on the lion's paw. In course of time the lion grew very fond of his friend.

9. People who came to see the circus were surprised at the sight. "A lion and a dog in the same cage ! Look, how friendly they are ! It's very strange indeed," they said.

10. One evening a man came to look at the animals in the cages. He came to the lion's cage. He was surprised to find his little dog there !

"That's my dog. I lost it a few days ago. Please let me have it," he said to the circus manager.

"Sure, you can take it back. It's yours," the manager said.

11. The circus people tried to get the little dog out of the cage. But they did not succeed. They tried several times but the lion did not let them touch the dog. He roared when they tried to get near the cage.

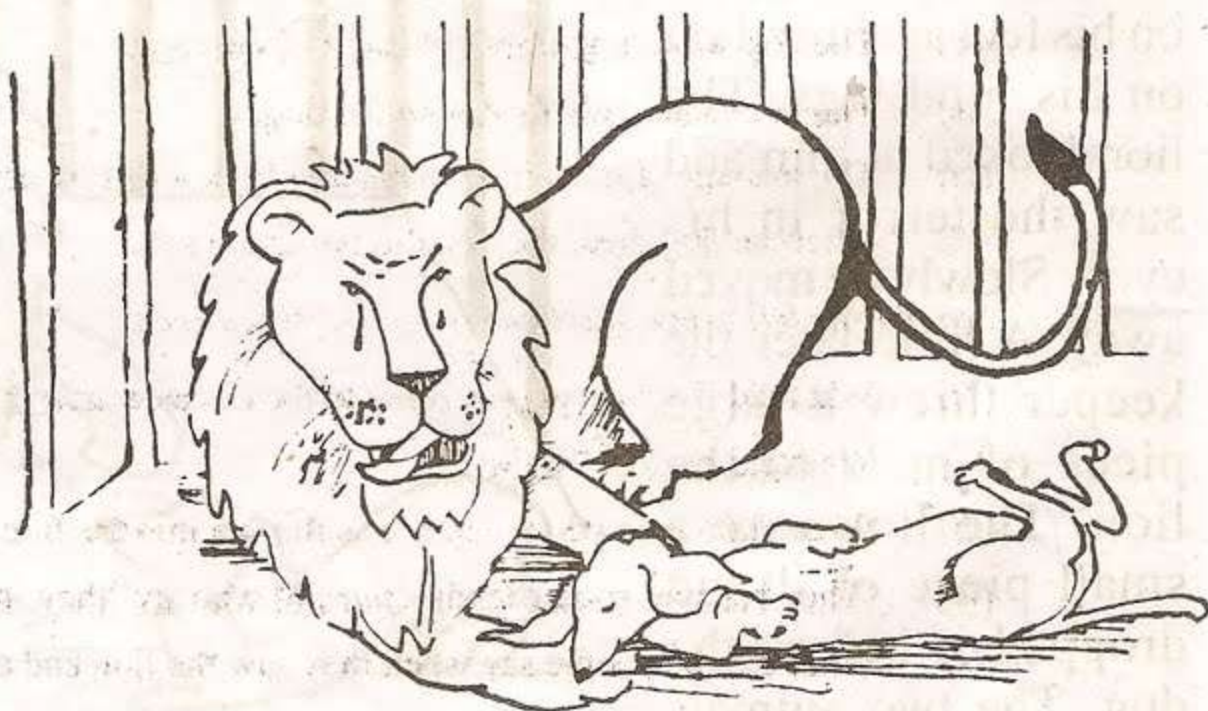
12. The lion and the little dog were good friends. They ate and played together. They lived happily in the cage for almost a year.

13. One day the little dog fell seriously ill. The lion lay near him and licked his body with love. The doctor made the little dog swallow some medicine. But day by day it grew worse. The lion sat by his side. He was sad. Two days later the little dog died. The lion tried to move him with his paw but he lay still.

14. The lion got up and moved up and down the cage. He struck at the bars of the cage with his paw. He roared in anger. The keeper tried to remove the dead dog from the cage but the angry lion did not let him touch it. He went away.

15. The lion lay down near his little friend. He did not eat the meat that the keeper threw into the cage. He did not move at all. He looked very sad and ill. He lay like that for a few days. One morning the keeper came to his cage and found him dead.

16. Everyone was surprised at the lion's love for the little dog. How



strange their friendship was ! Even after their death they were together for they were buried at the same place.

— Leo Tolstoy (Adapted)

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

- | | | |
|----|------------|---|
| 1 | per ' form | : do |
| 3 | perhaps | : possibly |
| 4 | ' fierce | : cruel ; wild |
| 5 | sniff | : draw air noisily up the nose |
| | wag | : move from side to side or up and down |
| | 'terror | : great fear |
| 11 | roar | : to make a loud, deep cry |
| | 'almost | : nearly |
| 13 | lick | : pass the tongue over |
| 16 | 'strange | : uncommon |

Note : Illustration : hind legs ; lick ; paw

Translation : surprise ; busy.

II Comprehension :

1. Read the following statements. Mark (✓) against the right ones and (×) against the wrong ones. Copydown the right statements.

Example :

- | | |
|---|-------|
| The lion and the dog were good friends. | (✓) |
| The lion and the dog were separated | (×) |
| (i) The circus manager allowed the people to see the circus only if they brought money. | () |
| (ii) The dog was offered as food to the lion. | () |
| (iii) The dog was afraid of the lion. | () |
| (iv) The dog was sometimes taken out of the cage. | () |
| (v) The lion shared his food with the dog. | () |
| (vi) The manager agreed to give the dog back to his owner. | () |
| (vii) After the dog died, the lion did not touch food. | () |

2. Answer the following questions in one sentence each :

- What did the poor people bring to the circus manager ?
- What did he do with them ?
- What did the dog do when it was thrown into the lion's cage ?
- 'They became good friends' (para 8) who are 'they' here ?
- What did the people say when they saw the lion and the dog together ?
- Why did the circus people try to get the dog out of the cage ?
- How long did the dog and the lion live together ?

UNITY IS STRENGTH

1. Long long ago there lived in Persia an old carpet maker. He was famous for his carpets. He had three sons, Abdul, Anwar and Aslam. One day the old man called them and said, "I am getting old, my sons. I can't look after our business any longer. I want you to work together and look after the business." The young men agreed to work together.

2. They shared the work together. Abdul, the eldest, worked on the pattern for the carpets. Anwar mixed the dyes and made the carpets look bright and colourful. Aslam, the youngest, was good at weaving carpets. Together they made beautiful carpets and improved their business.

3. The King of Persia had a son who grew up into a handsome young man. The prince was to marry the beautiful princess of Baghdad in a few months. He thought of giving her a good wedding gift. "What gift shall I give her?" he thought. "Our country is famous for its carpets. I can't think of a better gift than a beautiful Persian carpet." So he decided to give her the best Persian carpet he could get.

4. He ordered all the good carpet makers of the country to bring him their finest carpets. He gave them six months to complete the work. On the wedding day the princess herself would choose the best one among all the carpets and give an award to its maker. When the three brothers heard about it, they were happy. "Here's our chance," they thought. "We shall make the finest carpet and take it to the princess. We are sure to win the award. People all over Persia will come to know of us. We can sell a lot of our carpets."

5. As they did not have much time, they started work on their carpet. First, Abdul began to work on the pattern. "I must make it very attractive," he said to himself. "I must get the award. Why should I share it with my brothers? Their work is not as difficult as mine."

6. Then Anwar and Aslam came to him and said, "Show us your pattern, Abdul. We haven't much time left to make the carpet."

7. "Well, I have got my pattern ready. But I am not going to show it to you. I don't want to share the award with you," said Abdul. He was selfish.

8. "Don't boast of your work," said Anwar. "I give the carpets bright colours and make them look attractive. Otherwise no one would buy them. No, the award can't be yours. I must have my share."

9. "What's the use of your pattern and colours without the carpet itself?" said Aslam. "I do most of the work. I weave the carpet so I should have a large share of the award."

10. So they quarrelled. "Don't quarrel among yourselves, my sons. You are losing time," the old man warned them. But they did not listen to his words. While they quarrelled, the other weavers in the country were busy making beautiful carpets. "Don't think of the award now. Get to work together and do your best," said the old man. But his words fell on deaf ears.

11. The quarrel raged as time passed. One day the brothers shouted at one another and came to blows. In a fit of rage Abdul tore his pattern to pieces and threw them away. Aslam pushed Anwar towards the vessels, in which he was mixing colours. All the bright colours spilled on the floor. Anwar got up and pushed Aslam towards his loom. Aslam fell on the loom and it broke.

12. The Prince's wedding day was only a month away. Abdul did not work on a new pattern. Anwar had no dyes with him. Aslam had no loom to work with. The three brothers hated one another. They did not even speak to one another.

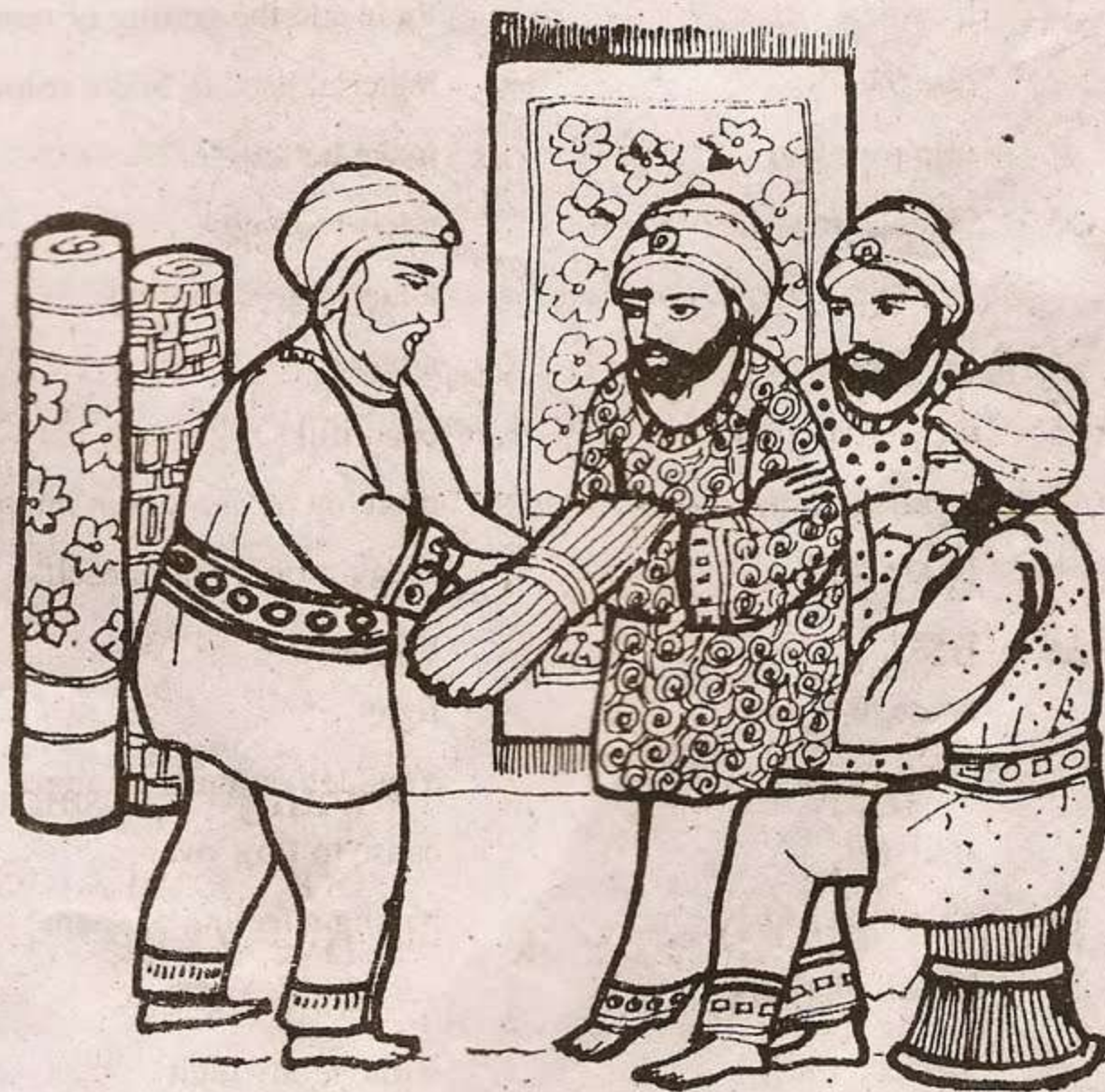
13. The old man was very sad. "I must do something. Otherwise they will become bitter enemies," he thought. Then he sent for his sons. When they came he said to them, "Bring me some sticks." They went out and brought a few sticks each.

14. Holding a stick in his hand, he asked his sons, 'Can you break this stick?'

15. "Of course, we can," they said. "That's easy".

16. Then the old man took all the sticks and tied them together in a bundle. "Now, can you break this bundle of sticks?" he asked each one of them.

17. One by one they tried but they found the sticks too strong.



18. "Look, my sons," said the old man, "it's easy to break a single stick because it is weak. But this bundle of sticks is strong. So it is difficult to break it. It's the same with you. Alone, everyone of you is weak. But together you are strong. So work together, my sons. I am sure you will get the award."

19. The three brothers were ashamed of themselves. "From now, we will work together, father. Please pardon us," they said. The old man bought them a new loom and a lot of colours. The brothers worked hard and in a few days produced a beautiful carpet. The old man was pleased with it.

20. On the Prince's wedding day, the three brothers took their beautiful carpet to the princess. The pattern was excellent. And the colours shone brightly in the sun. The weaving was smooth and perfect.

21. The princess walked round and looked at all the carpets. She was pleased with the carpet of the three brothers. "This is the carpet I like most," she said to the brothers. "You have worked together and made an extremely beautiful carpet. The award is yours."

22. The three brothers were happy. Their father was happy too. The brothers became famous and rich. But they never forgot the bundle of sticks. It still hangs on a peg in their shop.

I Notes and Meanings :

1	look after (v)	:	take care of
	b'usiness (n)	:	trade and the getting of money
2	dye (n)	:	material used to make colour
	imp'rove (v)	:	make better
3	'handsome (adj)	:	good-looking
	'wedding (n)	:	a marriage ceremony
4	a'ward (n)	:	a prize
5	att'ractive (adj)	:	beautiful
7	'selfish (adj)	:	thinking of one's own interests
8	boast (v)	:	speak proudly of oneself
11	raged	:	increased
	come to blows (v)	:	fight
	a fit of rage (n)	:	a sudden outburst of anger
	spill (v)	:	cause to flow over
19	a'shamed (adj)	:	having a feeling of shame
20	'excellent (adj)	:	very good
	'perfect (adj)	:	without any fault
21	ex'tremely (adv)	:	to a very high degree

THE THIEF AND HIS DONKEY

1. It was one O'clock in the afternoon. All the shops in Narayanpur were closed. It was lunch time for everyone in the town except Balan.

2. Balan was just getting out of a watch shop through a window at the back, after stealing a new expensive watch. Coming out, he grew about to see if anyone was watching.

There was no one in the street. Only his donkey stood at the side of the road, a few yards away. It had a small sack on its back. Balan walked up to the donkey and hid the new watch in the small sack. He patted the donkey's neck and said, "Now, go straight home. See you."



3. In Narayanpur merchants spend much time over their lunch and then have a good rest for two hours. They go back to their shops rather late in the afternoon. Balan knew this. He had plenty of time to reach home safely. The shopkeeper would not notice the missing watch for quite some time. When he noticed it, he would inform the police. And the police would be looking for a thief with a new watch. But who would look for a donkey ! He knew he was quite safe.

4. This was how he stole things. When he stole something he put it in the sack on the donkey's back. The donkey walked back home slowly. Balan himself took a bus and reached home early. He waited for the donkey and took the stolen article out of the sack. No one could suspect him. On two or three occasions the police had caught him soon after the theft. They searched Balan but found nothing on him, so they could not arrest him. They did not know that the docile donkey was his partner in the crime !

5. The donkey was walking slowly towards Balan's house, when a boy named Sukumaran saw it. Like all boys he was curious. He looked at the donkey. It was alone. Its owner was nowhere around. "Why not I take this donkey home ?" he asked himself. The idea seemed very good to him. So he decided to take it home.

6. He tied a rope round the donkey's neck and tried to drag it. But the donkey did not budge an inch. At Balan's house a delicious lunch was waiting for him ! So he would not change his course for anything. Sukumaran tried hard but his efforts were in vain. As the donkey did not follow him, he did the next best thing. He followed the donkey himself.

7. On the way Sukumaran heard the people talking about a stolen watch. But it did not interest him. Those were honest days when thefts were rare. So people talked about it when there was one.

8. Back at home, Balan waited for his donkey. As time passed he grew anxious. "Has someone caught my donkey ? Has he taken the new watch ?" he asked himself. He waited a little longer but the donkey did not turn up. Then he decided to go out to look for it.

9. Meanwhile Sukumaran noticed the sack on the donkey's back. He got curious about it. He opened it and found the bright new watch in it. There was a price tag on the watch, which showed it cost seven hundred rupees. Sukumaran remembered people talking about the stolen watch. "I shall take the watch and give it to the police. They will give me a reward," he thought.

10. Just at that moment Balan came that way. He noticed his donkey and the boy following it. The watch in the boy's hand caught his eye. "Hey ! That's my



watch," he shouted and walked quickly towards the boy. Noticing Balan, the boy started to run. Balan ran after him. Soon Balan caught up with the boy. He snatched the watch from the boy and said, "It's my watch. How dare you take it out of the sack on my donkey's back !". Then he felt a hand

on his shoulder and looked back. And who did he see ? A policeman!

11. The policeman took Balan to the police station. The Inspector asked him questions. At first Balan denied having stolen the watch. On the price tag was the name of the watch shop. The shop owner was sent for. He claimed that the watch belonged to him. The police beat Balan up till he told them the truth. He admitted his crime and was sent to prison.



12. At Balan's house, the donkey had arrived. But there was no delicious lunch waiting for it. Worse still, Balan was not there.

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

2	ex' pensive (adj)	:	high priced
	sack (n)	:	large bag of strong cloth.
3	plenty (adj)	:	more than enough
	look for (v)	:	search for
4	' article (n)	:	thing
	do' cile (adj)	:	easily led
5	' curious (adj)	:	eager to know
	a' lone (adj)	:	not with others
6	' drag (v)	:	pull
	budge (v)	:	move a little
	de' licious (adj)	:	very tasty
	in' vain (adv)	:	without success or result
7	' theft (n)	:	act of stealing
	' rare (adj)	:	not common
8	' anxious (adj)	:	feeling fear and doubt.
	turn up (v)	:	arrive; appear
9	catch up (v)	:	overtake
	' snatch (v)	:	seize suddenly without asking
10	den'y (v)	:	refuse to accept
	send for (v)	:	ask to come
	claim (v)	:	demand as one's right
Note :	Demonstration	:	pat
	Illustration	:	price tag
	Translation	:	sack

II Comprehension :

1. The following are a few incidents in the story 'The thief and his donkey'. Arrange them in the order of their happening. Mark 1 against the first, 2 against the next and 3 against the next and so on.

The first and the last are done for you as an example.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| (a) Sukumaran followed the donkey. | () |
| (b) Balan saw his donkey and Sukumaran. | () |
| (c) Balan stole an expensive watch from a shop. | (1) Example. |
| (d) sukumaran found the new watch in the sack on the donkey's back. | () |
| (e) The Policeman took Balan to the police station. | () |
| (f) Balan snatched the watch from Sukumaran. | () |
| (g) Balan was sent to prison for stealing the watch. | (8) Example |
| (h) The shop owner claimed that the watch belonged to him. | () |

2. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each.

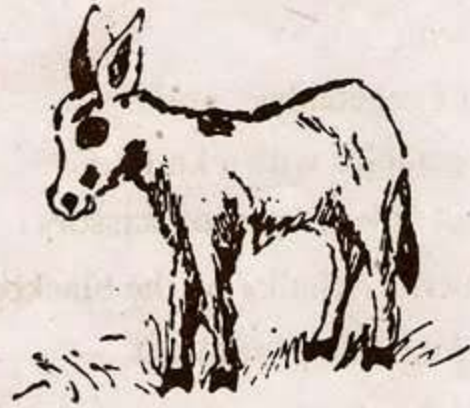
- What did Balan do in the watch shop ?
- Where did he hide the new watch ?
- 'The police had caught him after the theft two or three times' (para 4). Why did they not punish him ?
- 'As the donkey did not follow him, he did the next best thing' (para 6). Who does 'he' refer to here ? What did he try to do ? What was the next best thing ?

A DONKEY

I saw a donkey
One day old
His head was too big
For his neck to hold ;

His legs were shaky
And long and loose,
They rocked and staggered
And weren't much use

He looked so little
And weak and slim
I prayed the world
Might be good to him.



—Gertrude Hind.

I Notes and Meanings :

rocked	:	shook
staggered	:	moved unsteadily
slim	:	thin

II Comprehension :

1. How old was the donkey ?
2. Could his neck hold his head ? Why not ?
3. Why were his legs useless ? What are the words that describe its legs ?
4. What does the poet want the world to do ? Why ?

THE BOY WHO BECAME A STAR

1. Have you seen the pole star ? Wake up early in the morning and look at the northern sky. You will see a bright star. In olden days this star helped sailors to find their way on the seas. In our country we call this ' Dhruva ' star. It is named after a sage-prince Dhruva. There is an interesting story about Dhruva and how he became a star.

2. Long long ago King Uttanapada ruled our country. He married Suniti, a lady of many virtues. They lived happily together. After a few years the queen gave birth to a charming baby. They named him Dhruva. Both the king and the queen were very fond of him. The king fondled him and there were several servants to attend on him. He grew up under the fond care of his mother Suniti. But their happiness did not last long.

3. One day the king saw an extremely beautiful lady, Suruchi. He married her and lived happily with her. Suruchi grew jealous of Suniti and her son Dhruva. In course of time she gave birth to a son. They named him Uttam. The king grew more fond of Suruchi. He spent most of his time with her. After the birth of her son, Suruchi grew more jealous of Dhruva. She was also jealous of the king's great fondness for Dhruva. " I can't allow this to go on. If I do so, Dhruva will succeed the king. I must see that my son succeeds him," she thought.

4. Suruchi used all opportunities to turn the king's mind against Dhruva and his mother. As a result the king spent more time with Suruchi and neglected Suniti and Dhruva.



5. One day the king was sitting on his throne. And he was fondling Uttam. Dhruva came in and seeing his father playing with Uttam he went up to them. He was trying to sit on his father's lap when Suruchi came in. She saw Dhruva and the King fondling him.

She grew very angry. "Get off the king's lap. You don't deserve to sit on it. You can sit there only if you are born to me. Go and pray to God to give you such a boon. Go to your mother," she shouted at Dhruva. She scolded him and dragged him off the king's lap. Dhruva was in tears. He looked helplessly at his father. Although the king loved Dhruva very much, he could not act against Suruchi's wishes. So he did not say a word. Dhruva ran to his mother, crying loudly.

6. Suniti came to know about the incident through her servants. Dhruva also told her how cruel Suruchi had been to him. Suniti felt very sorry for him. She spoke gently to her son. "Don't cry, my dear," she said. "We have a great Father. He is greater than any king on earth and more loving than any father. He is the Father of all. He loves all. He loves you too, my child."

7. 'Who is he, mother?' asked Dhruva.

'He is Lord Vishnu,' said Suniti. 'He is God and we are his children.'

'Then I will find Lord Vishnu, mother' said Dhruva. There was a sparkle in his eyes.

'You're too young, my son. When you grow old, you can look for God and find him.'

'No, mother. I can't wait. I want to find Him soon', said Dhruva.

'It's not easy, my dear. Great sages can't see Him even after years of prayer. You're only a child.'

8. But Dhruva did not listen to his mother's words. She tried hard to change his mind. She gave him sweets and toys. But Dhruva had no use for them. He only wanted to see Lord Vishnu.

9. The next morning Dhruva left home in search of Lord Vishnu. He met sages in the forest and asked them, 'O wise ones! Can you show me Lord Vishnu? Where can I find him?'

"You are a small boy. Go back to your parents. When you grow old and wise you can see Vishnu," said the sages.

"I want to see Him now. I need His love," Dhruva persisted.

10. He continued his journey on foot. After some time he came to a deep forest. He heard the cries of wild animals but he was not afraid of them. They did not harm him at all. He thought only of Lord Vishnu. He uttered his name with great love and respect.

11. Narada, the great sage, was moved by the little boy's devotion to Lord Vishnu. He came down from heaven to meet him. Dhruva told him his story. He requested Narada to lead him to Lord Vishnu.

12. “You’re a little boy. Don’t take Suruchi’s words to heart. Go back to your parents. You are too young to think of God,” said Narada.

“No, I won’t go back,” said Dhruva. “I shall see Lord Vishnu or I shall die.”

13. Narada saw that the boy was determined. He showed him how to pray to Lord Vishnu. Dhruva followed his advice. He sat on a large stone, closed his eyes and fixed his thoughts on Lord Vishnu.



14. Lord Vishnu was pleased with the boy’s love for him. He appeared before Dhruva. The little boy was delighted to see Lord Vishnu. He felt His great love, and his mind was filled with peace.

15. “I am very much pleased with your devotion, my son. What do you want? Ask me and I shall give it to you,” said Lord Vishnu.



16. Dhruva’s heart was full of happiness and Love. “I always want your love, Father. I want nothing else,” he said.

17. Vishnu blessed Dhruva and said, “All right. I shall make you a star. You will always shine brightly in the sky. People will see you shining brightly in the sky and remember your love for me.” Vishnu changed him into a star and disappeared.

18. Dhruva became the pole star. Today, in our country we remember him as a great sage. He was a great little boy who became a star.

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

1	s'ailors (n)	:	seamen, people who travel on the sea.
	sage-prince (n)	:	the son of a king, who was also very wise.
2	v'irtues (n)	:	good qualities.
	'charming (adj)	:	very pleasing, attractive.
	fond of	:	having a great love for.
	'fondle (v)	:	touch in a loving way.
	last (v)	:	continue.
3	'jealous (adj)	:	envious ; wanting to get what someone else has.
4	opportunities	:	chances to do something.
	neg'lect (v)	:	take no care of.
5	de'serve (v)	:	be worthy of.
7	'sparkle (n)	:	quick flash of light.
9	per'sist (v)	:	continue steadily in a course of action although it is difficult.
10	'utter (v)	:	say.
11	de'votion (n)	:	great love.
12	take to heart	:	think seriously about.
13	de'termined (adj)	:	had a strong will.
14	de'lighted (adj)	:	greatly pleased.
17	bless (v)	:	express one's favour to.

II Comprehension :

1. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with suitable words.

Example :

In India, the pole-star is known after a sage-prince called Dhruva.

- The pole -star is always seen in the _____ sky.
- Suruchi grew _____ of Suniti and Dhruva.
- Suruchi's son was _____.
- Suniti told Dhruva that _____ was greater than all kings and more loved than all fathers.
- The sages said that Dhruva was too _____ to see Lord Vishnu.
- _____ showed to Dhruva how to pray to Lord Vishnu.
- When Lord Vishnu appeared before Dhruva, Dhruva asked him for his _____ nothing else.
- Lord Vishnu made Dhruva a bright star to make people remember _____ they see it.

FAMILY PETS

1. Mr. Sekhar was a great lover of animals. There were a lot of pets in his house. He was kind to them and looked after them well. His son Sundar and daughter Mohini shared their father's love for animals. They had their own pets too. Although Mr. Sekhar liked the animals very much, he found them in all sorts of places in the house.

2. One morning Sundar and Mohini were surprised to hear their father shouting. "Nasty creatures ! You find them all over the house. This house has become a zoo " he cried. He was in a bad mood.

3. He had just got up from his bed when he saw Sundar's pet, a black cat named Syamala, lying cosily near the pillow. Mr. Sekhar was very superstitious. "The first thing I see in the morning is this black devil. Sundar, where are you ? Why did you leave this monster on my bed ? " he shouted. "Come here. Take her and put her somewhere in the garden".

4. "It's raining, father," said Sundar. He promptly caught hold of his pet and took her to his room. He moved his hand tenderly over her soft, smooth fur as he held her in his arms. The pet cuddled up in his arms and purred in happiness.

5. Mr. Sekhar went into the dining room to have his breakfast. And what did he find there ! Mohini's pet kitten, which she called Sundari, was lapping up the milk it had spilt on the floor. The glass was broken and there were no biscuits in the plate. "What a nuisance your Sundari is ! Why do you let her get into the dining room, I wonder," cried Mr. Sekhar, very annoyed. "Mohini, take this creature out, will you ?" he shouted in anger.

6. "Why are you so hard on my pretty little Sundari, Papa ? I'm sorry I forgot to give her milk early this morning," Sundari said. She took her pet in her arms and went to her room to feed her.

7. Mrs. Sekhar brought in a fresh plate of biscuits and a glass of milk. Mr. Sekhar had his breakfast and got up. He was in a bad temper.

8. After breakfast, he lit a cigarette and took the day's newspaper. He wanted to settle down comfortably in his favourite chair and read the paper for a while before he went out to work. Just as he was sitting down in his chair, there was a howl of pain. He jumped out of the chair only to find that he had sat on his pet dog, Tiger. 'Bow, wow, Bow, wow', it protested in pain.

9. "Why are you here ? Do you think you own this place ?" He shouted. But he felt sorry he had hurt his 'Tiger'. "Sundar, take Tiger and put him in the kennel," he said. He had hardly settled down in his chair and begun to read the

newspaper, when the pet parrot began to talk. It was repeating something over and over again. He was not able to keep his mind on reading. "Mohini, can't you keep your pet silent? It doesn't let me read the paper. Who is he talking to?" he asked.

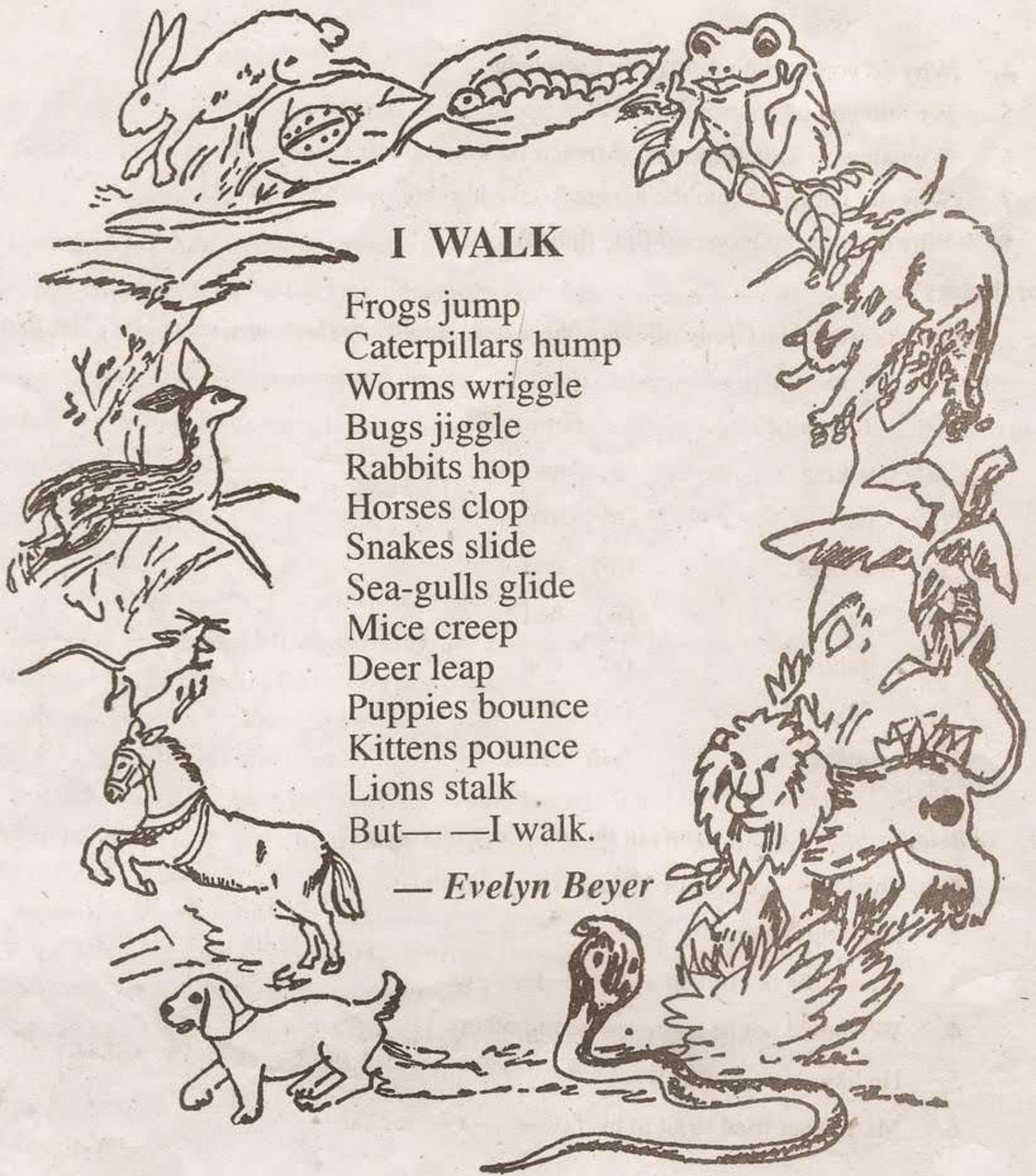
10. "I am giving him some talking practice, dad. I am playing a record and he is talking back to it. How can he learn to talk if you won't let him," she replied.

11. Mr. Sekhar did not say anything. Only his temper got worse. Then he got up to go to work. He went to get his cap. When he took it he found his pet white mouse under it. "What's the mouse doing here?" he cried angrily.

"What an odd morning! The first thing I see in the morning is a black cat. Then the kitten spoils my lunch. The dog finds comfort in my chair. And the parrot doesn't let me read the newspaper. Now, the mouse finds its home in my cap! This house is impossible."

12. After a while he prepared to leave. "Well, I'm off to work," he said and went out. He walked to his garage to take his car out. He went into the garage only to come out a little later with a chimpanzee in his arms. "And this chap is meddling with my car as if I haven't had enough trouble this morning," he said as he put the chimpanzee down on the floor. He looked at his wife and children and they looked back at him in silence. He went out, got into his car and drove off to work. "What an awful morning!" he thought.





I WALK

Frogs jump
Caterpillars hump
Worms wriggle
Bugs jiggle
Rabbits hop
Horses clop
Snakes slide
Sea-gulls glide
Mice creep
Deer leap
Puppies bounce
Kittens pounce
Lions stalk
But — — I walk.

— Evelyn Beyer

I Notes and meanings :

- Jiggle : move from side to side with jerks.
clop : sound made by horse's feet.
glide : move smoothly in the air.
leap : jump.
bounce : spring up like a ball.
pounce : jump suddenly on something to catch it.
stalk : follow quietly.

II Comprehension :

1. Learn the names of the creatures and the way they move.
2. Find the words from the poem that rhyme with the following words :
jump ; jiggle ; clop ; slide ; leap ; bounce ; walk.

— O —

THE OLD MAN'S ADVICE

1. Once a soldier was taken prisoner in a war. As a prisoner of war he had to do hard labour like a slave. After twenty years of hard labour he managed to escape from prison. When he escaped he had only three gold coins with him. During his years in prison he had saved only those three coins.

2. On his way home he came to a village. He found a crowd of people near a house. He walked upto the place to see what was happening. He found an old man sitting in front of the house. He was silent. Several people were standing around him.

3. "What's the matter? Who is this old man?" he asked a man in the crowd.

4. "He is a wise man. He gives you good advice if you give him a coin," the man replied.

5. "Well, I have got three Coins," he thought. "Let me try and find out what advice he will give me." He gave the old man a coin.

6. The old man took the coin and said, "Don't try to swim across a river when it is in flood".

7. The Soldier was disappointed. "That's not very useful advice, is it? Let me try once more," he said to himself. He gave the old man another coin.



8. The old man said, "If you get angry in the evening, don't act on it till the next morning."

9. The second piece of advice did not sound very useful either. "I have wasted two of my gold coins. It's no use asking him again", thought the soldier. And he went on with his journey.

10. On his way he came to a wide river. He had to cross the river to reach his town and the river was in

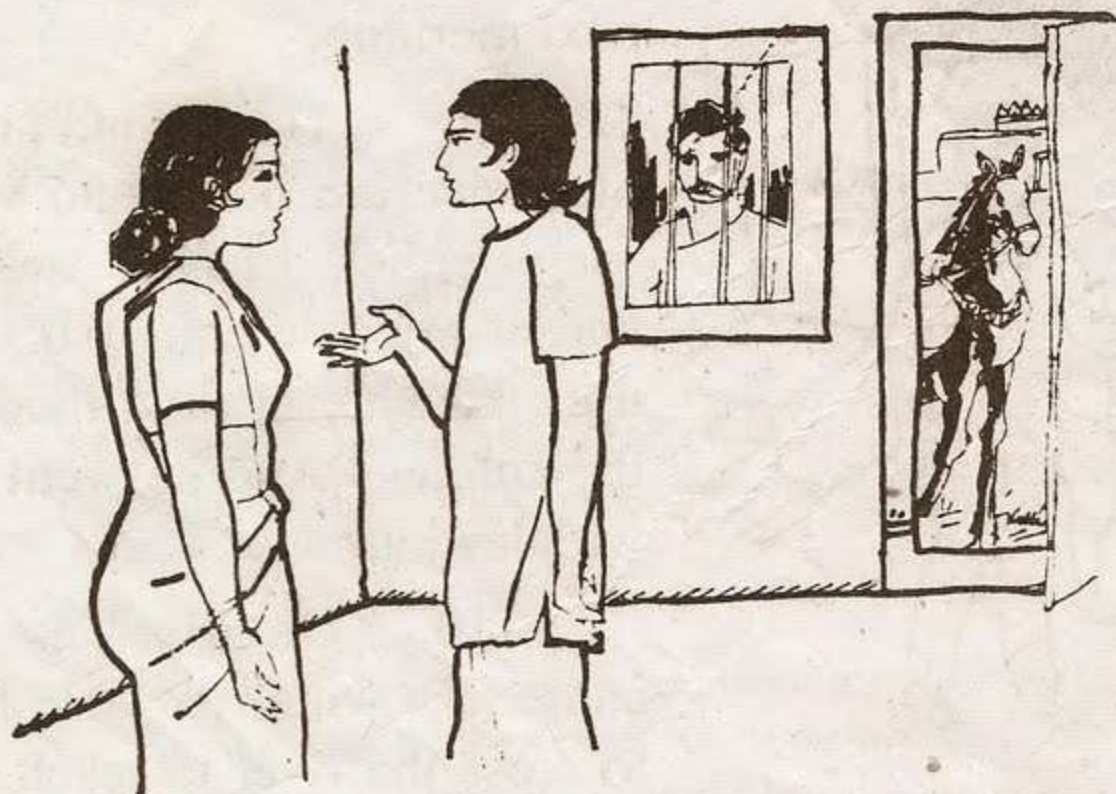
flood ! “ I can’t wait till the water goes down. I shall swim across,” he said to himself. Just then he remembered the old man’s first piece of advice : “ Don’t try to swim across the river when it is in flood.” The advice was clear so he sat down to eat some food.

11. As he was eating he heard the sound of horse’s hooves at some distance. He saw a young man on horseback riding fast towards the river. He seemed to be in a great hurry. He did not notice the river. Straight he rode into the river at such great speed that he disappeared into it along with his horse. Minutes passed. There was no trace of the young man. He was drowned. After a little while, the horse’s head was seen. It slowly struggled back to the bank. There were a couple of leather bags on its back. The



soldier walked up and caught the horse by its bridle. He was delighted to find that the bags were full of gold. There was also a pistol in the saddle.

12. “ Well, the young man must have been a thief ”, he said to himself. “ The old man’s advice has come true ! It has brought me good luck ”. When the water in the river went down, he rode across the river and reached home. He saw bright lights in the front room. He walked upto a window and looked inside.



13. When he was taken prisoner his wife was expecting a baby. The baby had grown into a handsome young man now. So when the soldier looked in the window he saw the young man talking to his wife. He mistook the young man for a stranger.

14. “ What a wretch she is! She has married a young man in my absence. I shall shoot her down with the pistol ”, he thought in anger. He went to get the pistol

out of the saddle. Then he remembered the old man's second piece of advice : " If you get angry in the evening, don't act on it till the next morning ".

15. The old man's first piece of advice had made him rich. " Let me follow his second piece of advice too and wait till tomorrow morning," he said to himself. He rode to his brother's house to spend the night.

16. At his brother's house he came to know everything. The young man was his own son ! And what a faithful woman his wife was ! He felt extremely happy. How foolish of him to think of killing her !

17. The next morning he rode back to his house. He hugged his wife and son in great joy. And they received him with great joy. The young man was very happy to meet his father. The Soldier's wife could not believe her eyes. There were tears of joy in her eyes. The Soldier told them about the old man and his two pieces of advice. One had made him rich and the other had stopped him from killing his good wife !

I Notes and Meanings :

para No.

1	hard labour (n)	:	work - given to prisoners as part of their punishment.
	manage to (v)	:	succeed
	save (v)	:	not use up ; keep for future use
2	crowd (n)	:	large number of people
6	flood (n)	:	sudden rush of water in a river
7	disap'pointed (adj)	:	sad at not seeing one's hopes come true
11	hurry (n)	:	moving quickly
	trace (n)	:	sign showing the former presence of a person
	drown (v)	:	die by being under water
13	mis' take (v)	:	(past : mistook) take someone for someone else.
	s' tranger (n)	:	person not known to one
14	wretch (n)	:	bad person
17	hug (v)	:	press close to the body with arms

Note :	Illustration	:	hooves ; bridle ; saddle
	Translation	:	Soldier ; prisoner ; crowd ; flood

ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP - I

1. Once there lived in China a tailor by name Mustafa. He had a son named Aladdin. Aladdin was a very lazy boy, who never listened to the words of his parents. Mustafa was worried about his son. In course of time he fell ill and died. But Aladdin did not change his ways. He did not learn a useful trade. He wasted his time playing with his friends.

2. One day while Aladdin was playing in the street a stranger came to him and asked, "Are you the son of Mustafa?"

"Yes, I am," replied Aladdin. "My father is dead."

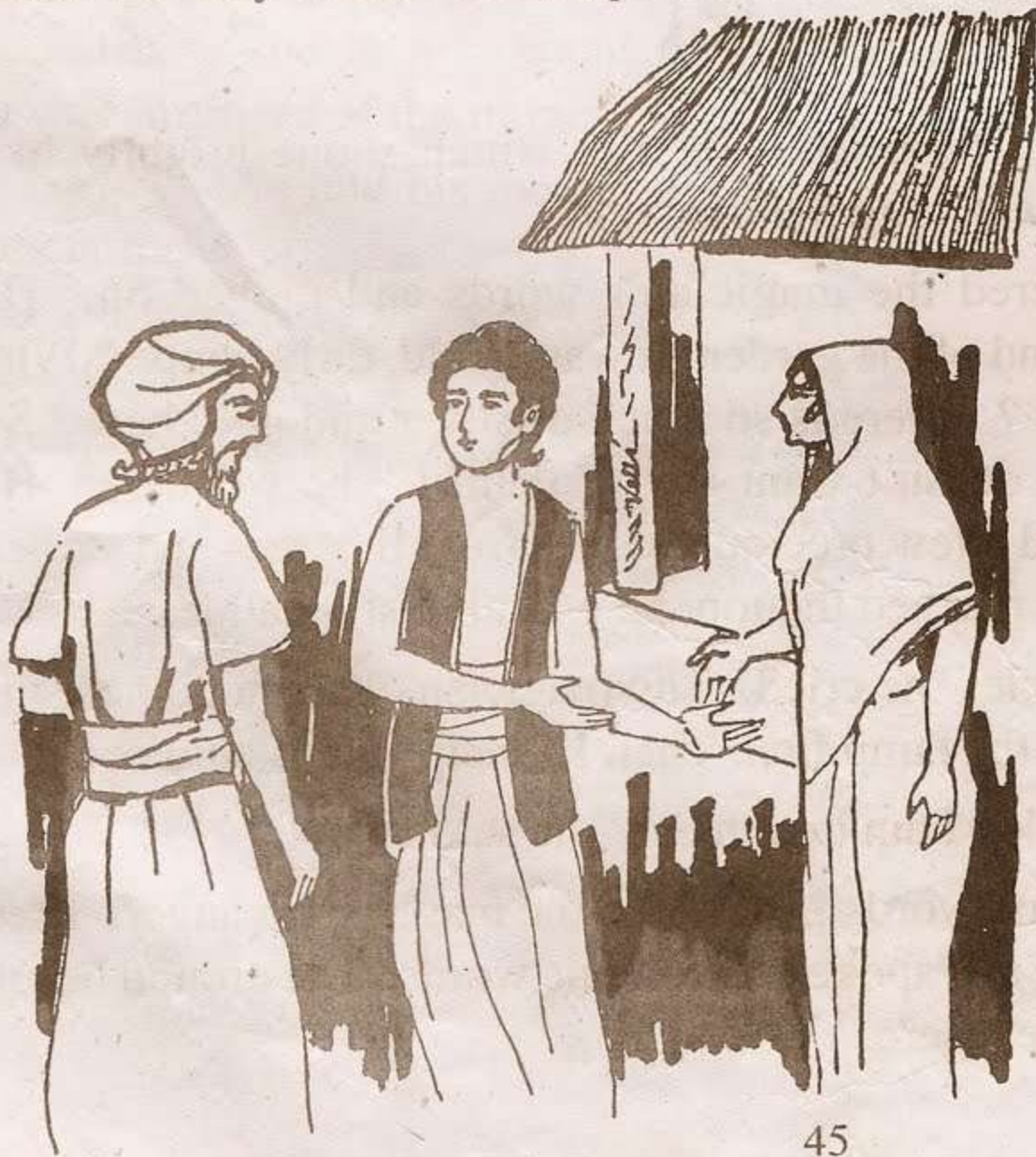
"I am very sorry to hear that, my lad," said the stranger. "I am your uncle, your father's brother. Won't you take me home?"

3. Aladdin took the stranger home and told his mother about his new uncle. But his mother did not recognise him. In fact he was a magician from Africa. "I haven't seen him before. Perhaps he is a cousin of some sort," she thought. She received him well and gave him something to eat. The magician also gave her many valuable gifts to please her.

4. The widow spoke to him about Aladdin. "He is my only hope but he doesn't do any work. We are poor. We'll have to starve if he doesn't work hard,"

she said. "Don't worry, sister-in-law," he replied. "I'll make him a useful man." He bought new clothes and a few gifts for Aladdin and his mother. The mother and the son began to trust him.

5. The next morning the magician took Aladdin out with him. They came to a beautiful garden outside the city, where they had lunch and took rest. Then they set out again and walked till they came to the foot of a big hill. The magician brought a few sticks and made a fire. Then he spoke



some magic words and threw some powder in the fire. Bang ! There was a loud sound and there was a wide opening in the ground ! Aladdin looked at it with wonder. There were steps leading down into the earth !

6. “ Now, my lad. Listen to me and you will be rich soon,” said the magician. “ Go down the steps. You’ll come across rooms full of silver and gold. Don’t go near them. Walk further till you come to a garden. At the end of the garden you’ll find a copper lamp. Bring it to me and I’ll make you rich.”

7. At first Aladdin was afraid of going down the steps. The magician gave him a ring. “ This will protect you from danger,” he said.

8. Aladdin grew bold and walked down the steps. As he walked down the steps he felt it was getting brighter. After a while he came to the rooms. The first one was built of silver.

Everything in it was made of silver. The second one was built of gold. It shone brightly like the sun on a cloudless day. The third one was enchanting. Its walls and roof were full of jewels which shone like stars. He stood there for a while, admiring their beauty and splendour. Then he moved forward and came to a garden.



What a lovely garden it was ! The trees bore fruit which shone brightly like precious stones. He stood still watching that marvel !

9. Then he remembered the magician’s words and moved on. He noticed the copper lamp at the end of the garden. It was an old, dirty lamp. “ Why does uncle want this dirty lamp ? There is so much of silver and gold here ! So many precious stones too ! He doesn’t want any of them ! ” he wondered. He took the old copper lamp, picked a few precious stones from the trees and started climbing up the stairs. When he reached the top, he was almost breathless.

10. “ Help me out, uncle,” he cried. The magician, who stood near the opening, replied, “ Let me have the lamp first. Then I’ll help you to come out.”

“ Please help me out, uncle. I am breathless,” he said again.

“ How dare you disobey my words ! ” shouted the magician in anger. Then he threw some powder in the fire and spoke some magic words. The ground began to close ! The hole was no longer there.

11. Aladdin thought, "This man can't be my uncle. My uncle will not be so cruel to me. He must be an evil man." He was in terror as he was caught in the bowels of the earth. He cried for a long time. Then he wiped his tears with his hand. As he did so the ring rubbed against his cheek. Bang ! There was a loud noise and sound. And in the clouds of smoke appeared a dark genie.



12. "I am the genie of the ring," said the genie. "What can I do for you, my master."

Aladdin looked at him with wonder. He also shook with fear. After a while he grew bold and said, "Please take me home."

13. And in a moment Aladdin found himself in front of his house ! He was surprised at the miracle.

14. He told his mother the whole story. She was very happy to see him back home.

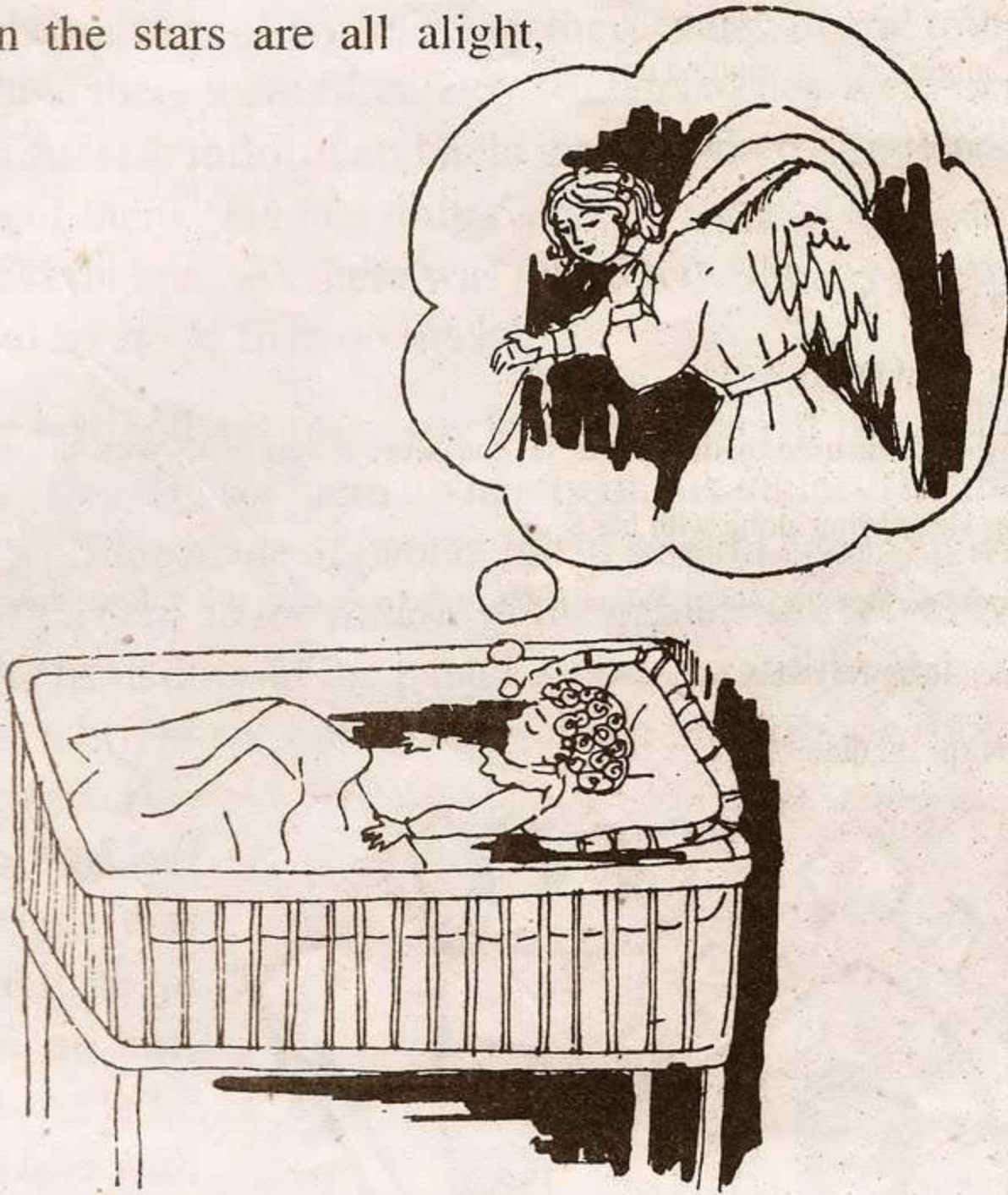
Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

1	worry about (v)	:	be anxious about
	trade (n)	:	work of any kind
2	'stranger (n)	:	person from another place
	lad (n)	:	boy
3	'recognise (v)	:	know again
	in fact (adv)	:	really
	ma'gician (n)	:	one who does strange things with the help of
		:	spirits and strange powers
	receive (v)	:	welcome and treat as guest
	'valuable (adj)	:	of great worth
	'please (v)	:	make happy

BABIES

In the dark and lonely night,
When the stars are all alight,



Sleep comes creeping up the street,
With her naked, silent feet,
Carrying upon her back,
Dreams of all kinds in a sack ;
Though the doors are bolted, still
She can enter where she will ;
And she lingers, it is said,
Longest by the children's bed —
Smooths their pillows, strokes their curls,
Happy little boys and girls !
But her prettiest dream she keeps
For the Baby, where he sleeps.

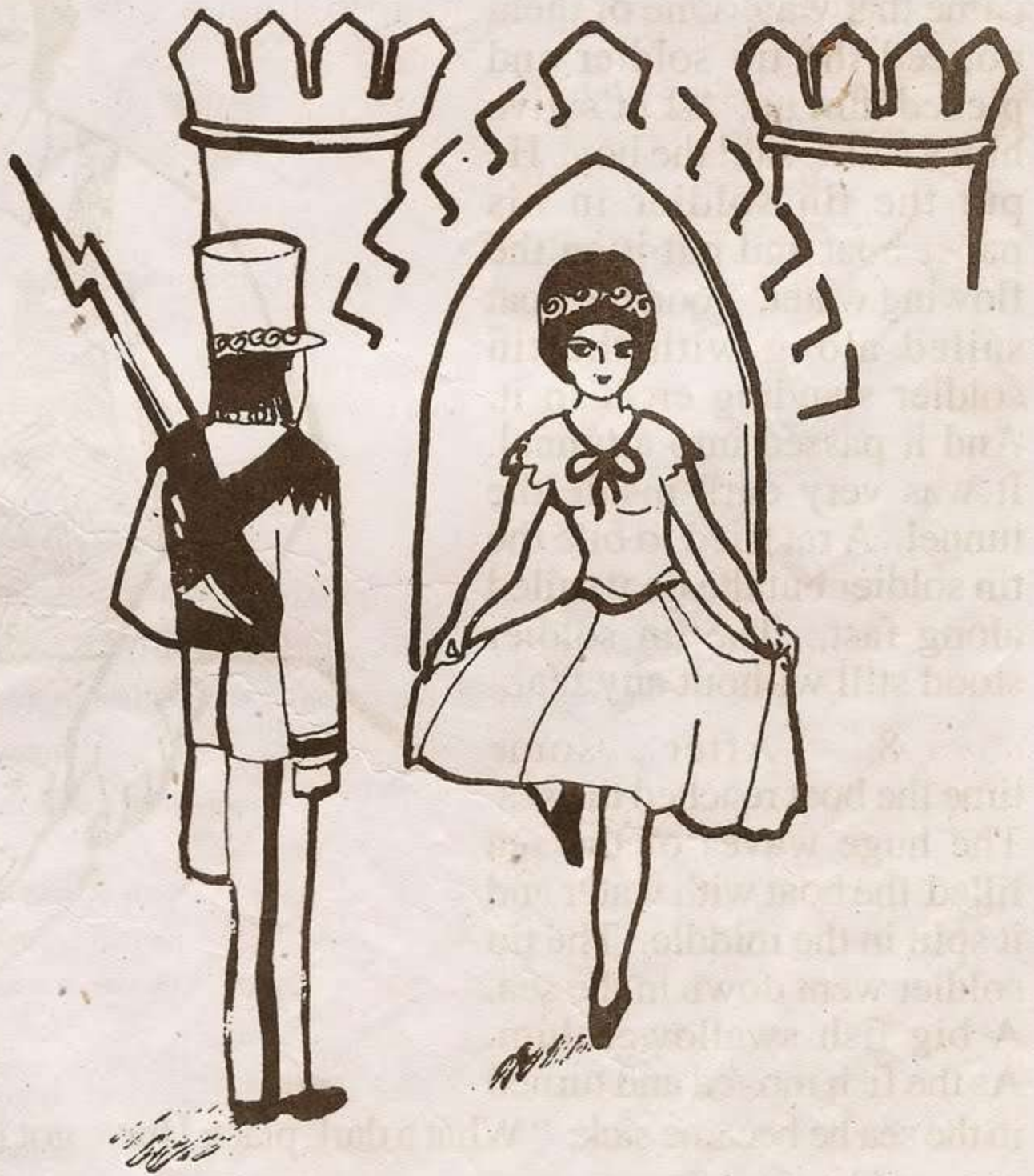
— *Charlotte Druitt Cole*

THE TIN SOLDIER

1. In the nursery of a young boy there were several toys and dolls. And in a box on the table there were fifteen toy soldiers. They were made of tin. All of them wore beautiful red uniform and held guns on their shoulders. They were all alike except one of them. He had only one leg. He was the last tin soldier to be made out of an old tin box. As there was no tin left, the toy-maker had given him only one leg. But he stood firm on his leg.

2. The boy had got these toy soldiers as a gift on his birthday. He had several other toys too. He set them up neatly on his table. The most beautiful toy on the table was a palace made of paper. It had several door and windows. Behind it was a beautiful garden. In the middle of the garden a small piece of glass looked like a lake. At the front door of the palace stood a beautiful girl. She was made of paper. She wore a bright red cotton dress and a blue ribbon round her shoulders. She was dancing. Her arms were stretched out and one of her legs was raised high. The little tin soldier looked at her. "How beautiful she is!" he said. "I am in love with her. I shall hide behind a book and look at her during the night." So he hid himself behind a book.

3. When it was time to go to bed, the little boy took all the tin soldiers and put them in the box. He did not notice the tin soldier hiding behind the book. All the night the little tin soldier stood gazing at the dancing girl. He never



took his eyes off her. Then a bad gnome peeped out of a box and said, "Tin Soldier. Why are you gazing at the pretty dancing girl? Go to bed." He was jealous of the tin soldier. But the tin soldier was quiet.

4. "Wait till morning. I'll show you what I can do" said the bad gnome and went back into his box.

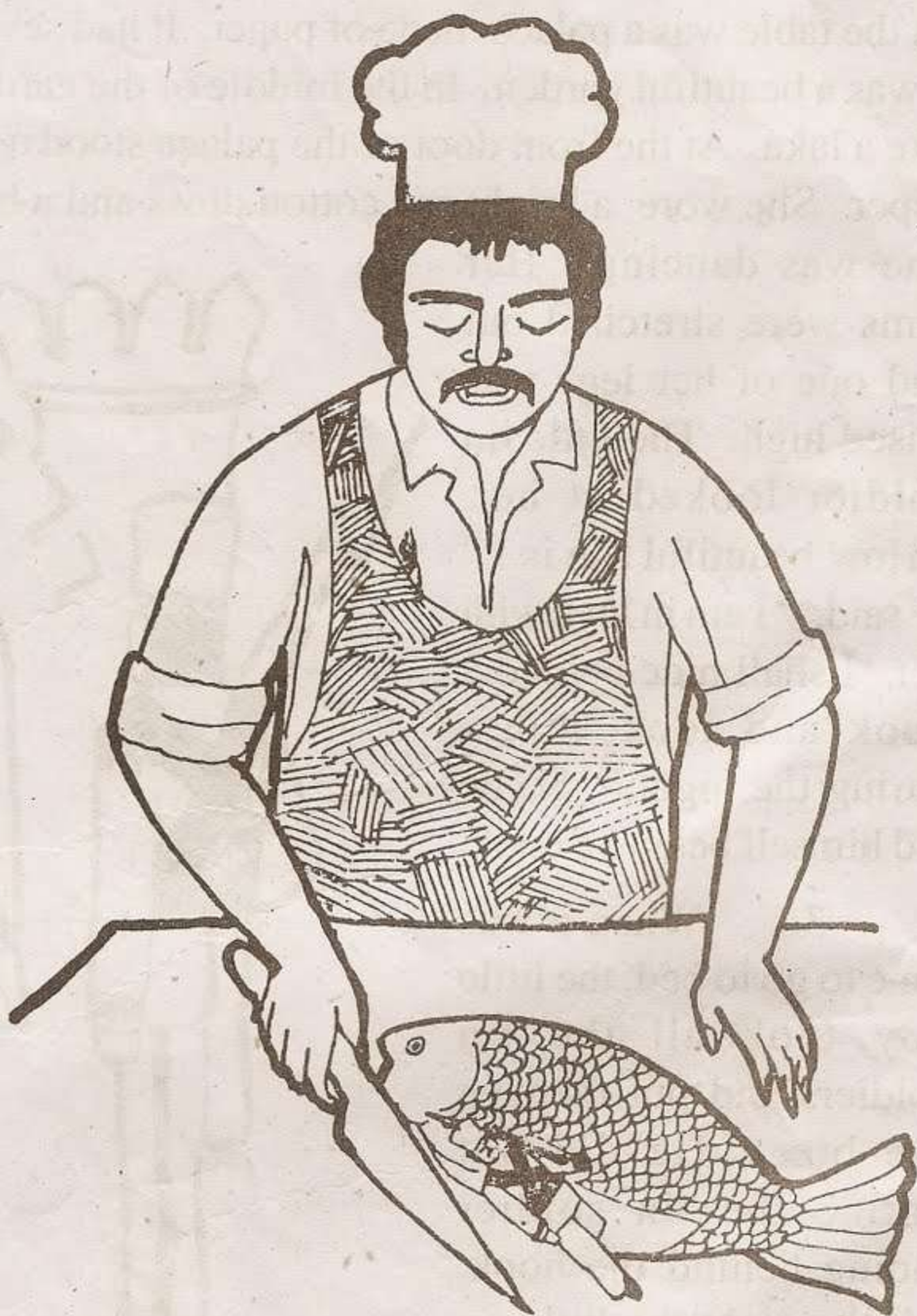
5. The next morning several children came into the room to play. They put all the tin soldiers back on the table. Suddenly there was a strong wind and a window flew open. The wind swept the tin soldier off his feet. He went down and down till he fell between two stones. His head was between the stones and his legs were up. Perhaps it was the bad gnome's mischief.

6. The little boy ran downstairs to look for the tin soldier. He searched for some time but could not find him. Then it started raining so he hurried back into the house.

7. It rained heavily. The tin soldier was wet. He shivered with cold. When the rain stopped, two boys came that way. One of them noticed the tin soldier and picked him up. "Let's give him a sail," said the boy. He put the tin soldier in his paper boat and put it on the flowing water. Soon the boat sailed along with the tin soldier standing erect in it. And it passed into a tunnel. It was very dark inside the tunnel. A rat tried to bite the tin soldier but the boat sailed along fast. The tin soldier stood still without any fear.

8. After some time the boat reached the sea. The huge waves of the sea filled the boat with water and it split in the middle. The tin soldier went down in the sea. A big fish swallowed him. As the fish moved and turned in the sea he became sick. "What a dark place I have got into!" he cursed his bad luck.

9. In course of time a fisherman caught the fish and sold it to a cook. The cook cut it open with a large knife. The tin soldier was glad to see the light



again. The cook was surprised to find the tin soldier. He took him to the nursery and put him on the table.

10. What a pleasant surprise it was for the tin soldier ! He was back to his old house again ! The paper palace stood there as before. The dancing girl was there standing on one leg, with the other high in the air. The tin soldier looked at her and she looked at him but they did not speak a word.

11. Then something strange happened ! Several little boys were playing in the room. One of them picked up the tin soldier and threw him into the fire. He did not know why he did it. Perhaps it was the bad gnome's mischief again ! The Tin Soldier stood bravely in the flames. But all his bright colours were gone. He looked at the dancing girl. She also looked at him. He thought there were tears in her eyes.

12. Suddenly someone opened the door. There was a strong wind. It blew the dancing girl straight into the fire. She burned up soon and was reduced to ashes. The Tin Soldier was now just a lump of metal. When the servant swept the floor the next morning, she found him there in the shape of a little tin heart !

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

1	nursery (n)	:	room for the use of children
	firm (adj)	:	strong ; steady
2	gift (n)	:	that which is given freely ; present
	'palace (n)	:	a large fine house ; house of a king
	stretch (v)	:	spread out
3	gaze (v)	:	look at for a long time
	gnome (n)	:	small ugly fairy
7	erect (adj)	:	upright ; standing upright
	tunnel (n)	:	hole cut through a hill
8	'swallow (v)	:	take something down the throat into the stomach
9	glad (adj)	:	happy
12	re'duced (v)	:	became a heap of ash
	to ashes		
	lump (n)	:	shapeless mass
	Illustration	:	tunnel, flame
	Translation	:	palace, swallow, lump

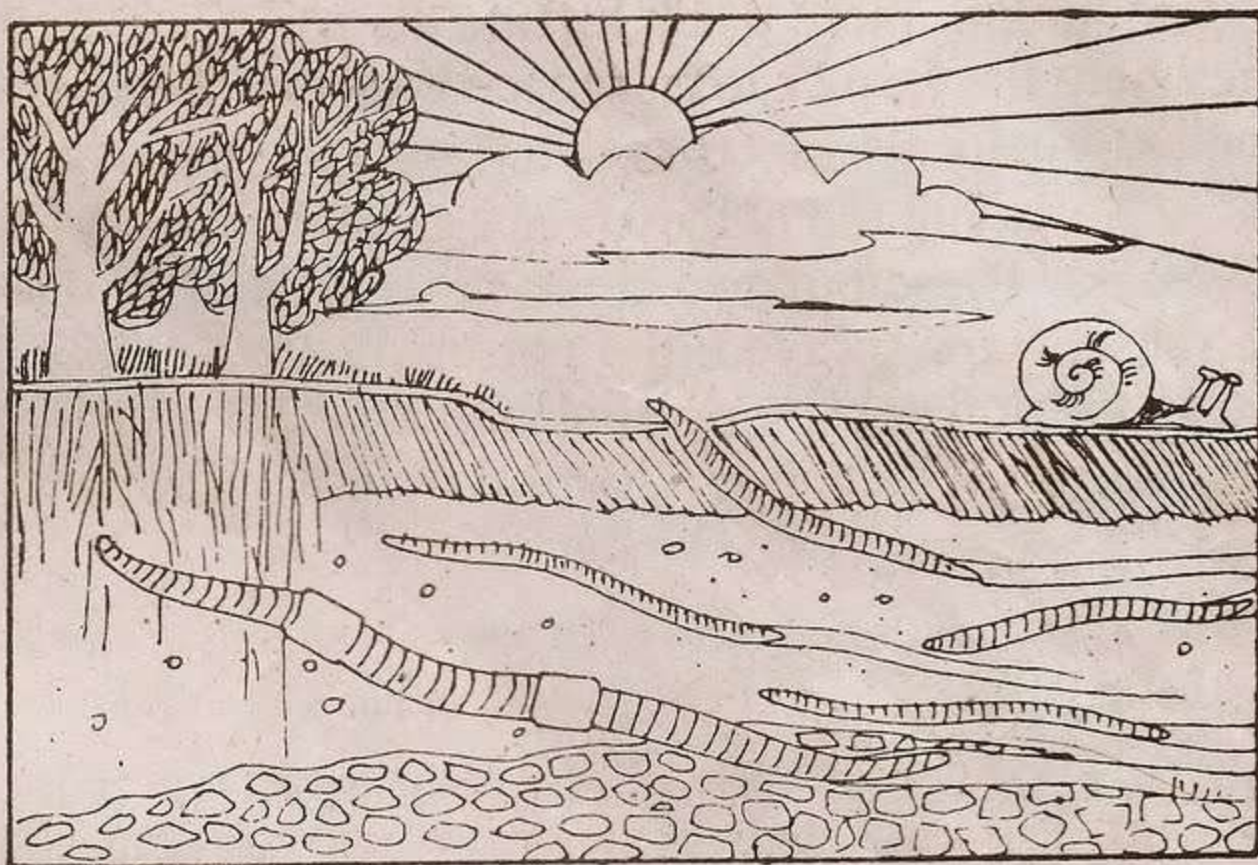
II Comprehension :

1. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences :

- (1) The tin soldiers in the boy's nursery were all in _____.
- (2) The tin soldiers were made out of an old _____.
- (3) A _____ stood at the front of the toy palace.

FARMER'S FRIENDS

1. There are many living things that live in the ground. A lot of worms and insects of different kinds live there. If you turn a stone off the ground you will find a few insects or worms under it. Soon they try to get back into the ground. They can't bear light. They like darkness. In the rainy season you may find a lot of snails on the ground. In fact, if you take a handful of dirt, you will find a lot of worms and insects in it.



2. Of all the worms that live in the ground, the earthworms are the most common. They are also found in large numbers. They are to be found everywhere in the ground.

3. Earthworms are of different kinds. There are over a thousand different kinds of them ! They are also of different sizes. Some of them are very tiny, only a few inches long. Some can be as long as seven feet. The long ones are to be found in India and South America. Australia is also famous for its giant earthworms. The common ones are about four feet long. But some rare ones can be as long as twelve feet. In Australia people were using these worms as bait to catch fish. As a result their number decreased. So people were asked not to dig up the earth for earthworms.

4. Earthworms have only one work to do. They eat all the time. They eat day and night. They move through the darkness in the ground eating whatever they find. They have no eyes to see. Nor can they smell. So they do not choose their food. They swallow whatever they find in the earth. Usually they eat dry leaves, dead insects and a lot of dirt.

5. Although earthworms cannot see, they can find the difference between day and night. At night they come up to the top of the ground. There they leave piles of waste food they have swallowed during the day. These piles of waste food are called casts. You can find these in the fields on a summer morning.

You may think that the casts look ugly on the ground. But they are extremely useful to the farmer. When the earthworm eats its food it swallows a lot of soil. As the soil goes through the earthworm's body, it changes. It becomes good manure for the fields. It makes the earth more fertile and the earth yields better crops. Some gardeners buy earthworms and put them in the flower pots to make the soil more fertile. As soon as they are put on the soil, they work their way into the soil.

6. The farmer finds these earthworms very useful to him. He takes care not to kill them when he tills the soil. The earthworms make the soil fertile. They help the farmer to raise rich crops on his farm. There are millions of these small worms.

7. But today they face a great danger. A lot of poisons are used to get rid of weeds. These poisons are very dangerous to the earthworms. If it rains after the poisons are sprayed, the poisons get into the soil. And the earthworms that live in the soil eat the poisons and die. So a farmer should take care not to kill these worms which are so helpful to him. They are his friends.

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

1	insect (n)	:	a small creature with six legs
	bear (v)	:	suffer
	in fact (adv)	:	really
	'handful (adj)	:	amount as much as the hand can contain
3	'tiny (adj)	:	very small
	'giant (adj)	:	very large
	bait (n)	:	food used to attract fish and catch them
	'usually (adv)	:	most often
5	pile (n)	:	heap
	ma'nure (n)	:	matter spread on soil so as to give food to plants
	'fertile (adj)	:	producing much
6	till (v)	:	prepare land for planting seeds
	million (n)	:	1,000,000 (one thousand thousand)
7	'poison (n)	:	matter which causes harm if allowed to enter the body
	get rid of (v)	:	remove
	weeds (n)	:	useless plants growing where they are not wanted
Note :	Illustration	:	farmer ; worm ; insect ; snail ; earthworm ; pile ; spray

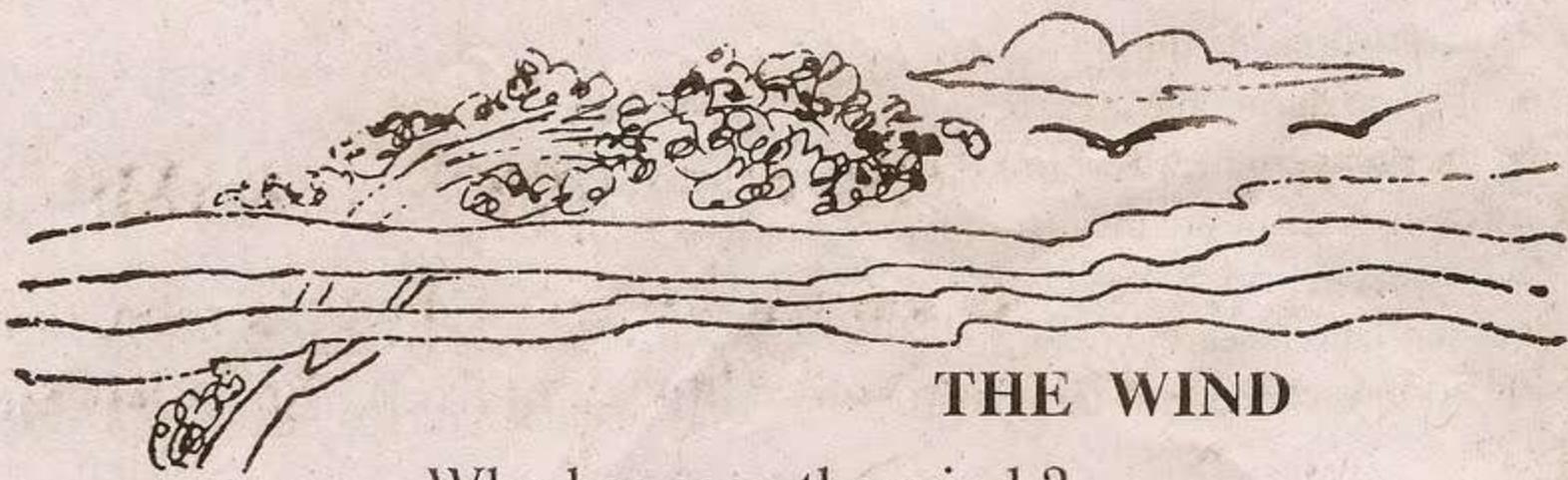
II Comprehension :

1. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences choosing words from those given :

- (1) Insects and worms that live in the ground cannot bear _____. (light/darkness/water)
- (2) A handful of dirt contains _____ insects and worms in it. (some /a few/several).
- (3) In Australia people were using earthworms as _____ to catch fish (nets/rods/bait).
- (4) Earthworms _____ whatever they find in the earth. (eat/swallow/drink).
- (5) At night earthworms leave _____ of waste food swallowed during the day. (piles/manures/poisons)
- (6) The presence of earthworms in the soil makes it _____. (wider/costlier/more fertile)
- (7) Poison sprayed to kill weeds is _____ to earthworms. (harmful/harmless/bitter)
- (8) The _____ is the farmer's friend. (worm /insect /earthworm)

2. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each :

- (1) What do you know of the size of the earthworms ?
- (2) What do earthworms eat ?

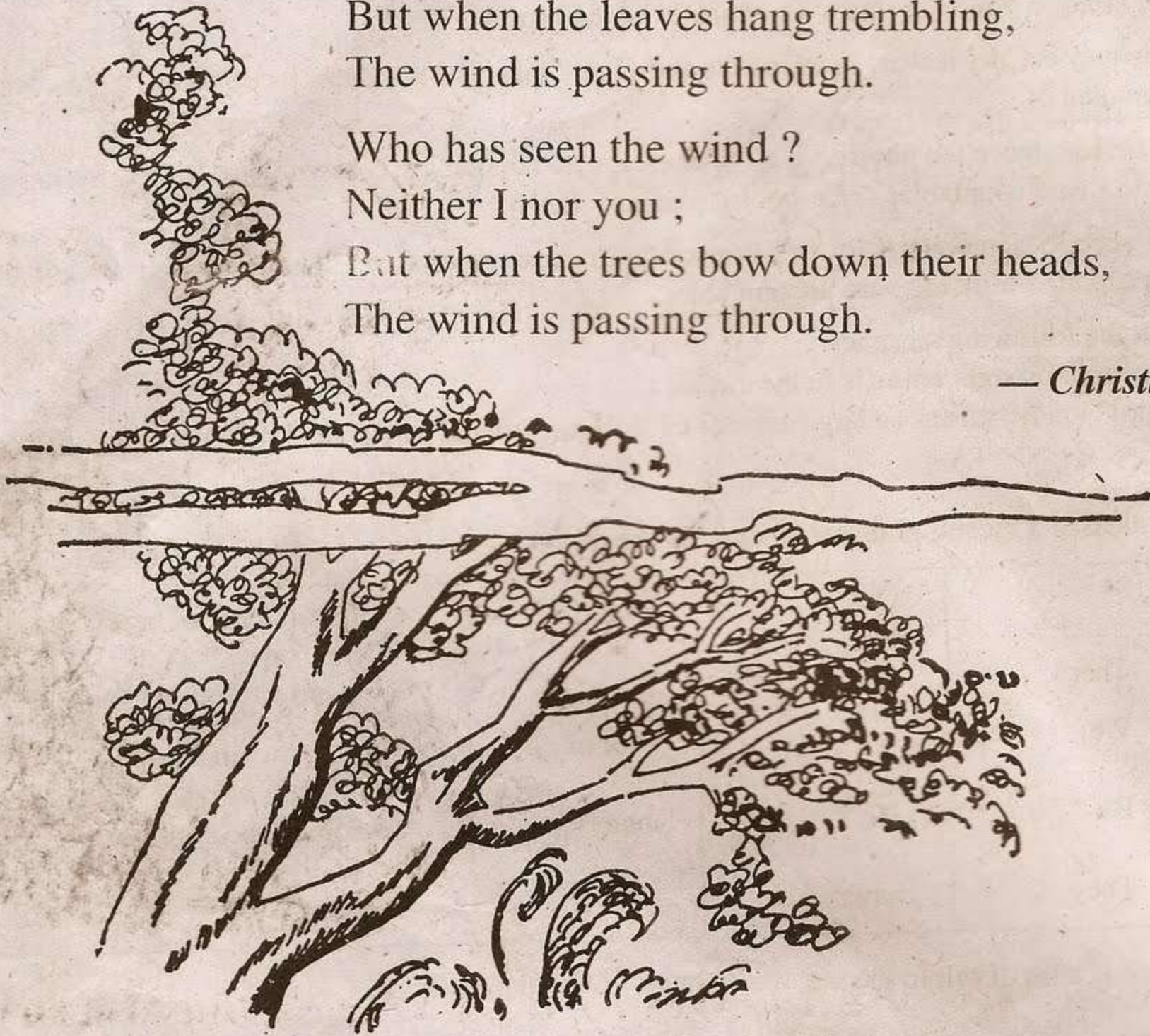


THE WIND

Who has seen the wind ?
Neither I nor you ;
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind ?
Neither I nor you ;
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing through.

— Christina Rossetti



I Notes and Meanings :

trembling : moving to and fro

II Comprehension :

1. Can we see the wind ?
 2. How do we know that the wind is blowing ?
- Read the lines that give the answer.

ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP - II

1. Back home Aladdin felt hungry. He asked his mother to give him something to eat. "There's no food in the house, my son. And I have no money to buy food with," she replied.

2. "Let's sell this lamp, mother. We'll get some money. Then we can buy some food," suggested Aladdin.

3. "A good idea," said the widow. "Let me polish it a little. Then it will look new and you can get more money for it."

4. As she started cleaning the lamp, there was a loud noise. Smoke came out of the lamp. Soon a big genie appeared. "I am the genie of the lamp. What can I do for you, my master?" he asked.



5. The widow fainted when she saw the genie. But Aladdin ordered, "Bring us some good food."

6. Soon there were all kinds of delicious dishes on the dining table. There were silver plates full of bread, meat and fruit. Aladdin and his mother were delighted to have such rich food. They ate well. Then they sold the silver plates and lived comfortably with the money they got. Whenever they needed money, they rubbed the lamp. The genie got them whatever they wanted. So they lived happily for several years.

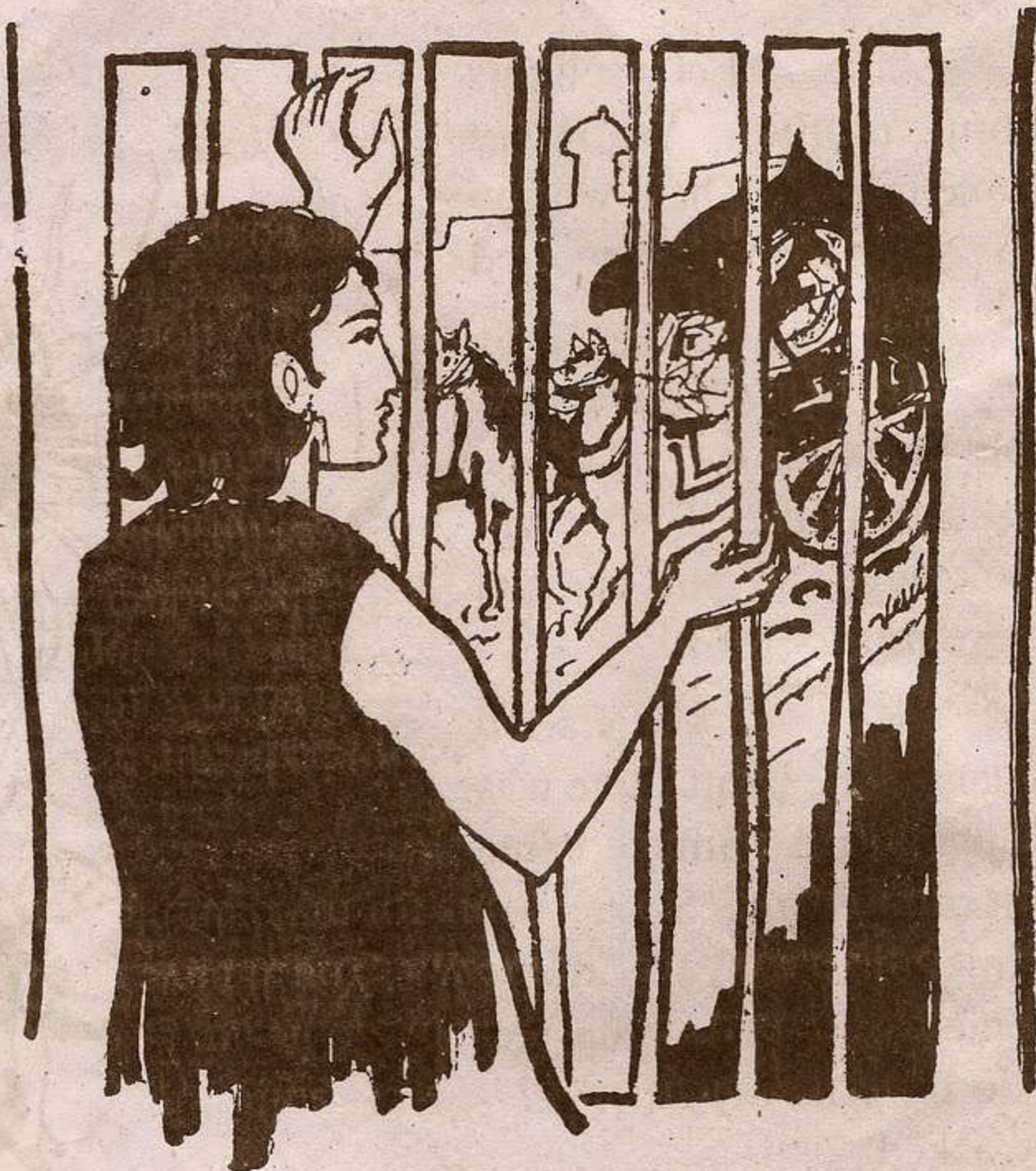
7. Aladdin grew up into a handsome young man. He gave up his lazy ways. He had wise men for company and learnt a lot from them. He was very popular in the city now.

8. One evening Aladdin was at home. He saw all the people in the street running back to their houses. Within a few minutes the street looked deserted.

“What’s happening, mother?” he asked. “Why are all these people rushing back home?”

9. “The Sultan’s daughter is passing through this street, son. No one should look at her while she is passing through. That is the Sultan’s order,” the widow replied.

10. Aladdin became curious. He decided to have a look at the Sultan’s daughter. He hid himself behind the window and peeped out as she passed that way. How beautiful she was! Immediately he fell in love with her. From that moment he only thought of her and nothing else. He even stopped eating food. His mother grew anxious about his health.



11. “What’s the matter with you, my son? Why do you refuse to eat food?” the widow asked her son.

12. “I want to marry the Sultan’s daughter, mother,” he said. “I am deeply in love with her.”

13. “Don’t be foolish. How can you hope to marry her? She will marry only a prince.”

14. “I may not be a prince but my heart is full of love for her. I shall marry only her, otherwise I will die,” said Aladdin.

15. At first the widow did not know what to do. She thought over it for several hours and decided to talk with the Sultan himself. The next morning she took a gift of rare jewels and went to the palace to meet the Sultan. She had to wait a long time as he was very busy. When she went in she told him of her son’s love

for his daughter. Her talk enraged the Sultan. "How dare you, a poor woman, have such thoughts!" he shouted at her. Then the widow presented him with her gift of rare jewels. The Sultan looked at the rare jewels with wonder. "She must be a rich lady to offer me such jewels. My daughter will be happy with such a rich family," he thought.

16. Then the Sultan consulted his minister. The minister wanted the princess to marry his own son. So he advised the Sultan to wait for three months. The Sultan said to the widow, "You'll have to wait for three months, I am afraid. I want to make arrangements for my daughter's marriage." The widow agreed to this and went home.

17. Back at home she told Aladdin that they should wait for three months. When he heard the reason, he agreed to wait.

18. But, in a fortnight, the Sultan announced his daughter's marriage with the minister's son. Aladdin was furious when he heard about it. Immediately he called the genie of the lamp and said to him, "The Sultan has broken his promise to us. He has given his daughter in marriage to his minister's son. Bring the princess and her bridegroom to my house to-night."

19. In the night when the couple were asleep the genie brought them to Aladdin's house. The princess was put to bed in a separate room and her bridegroom was placed outside the house. Before they woke up in the morning, the genie took them back to the Sultan's palace. When they woke up they felt they had had a bad dream. The genie repeated this over the next two nights. The bridegroom could not bear the experience any more. He told the Sultan that he would not like to live with his daughter.

20. After three months Aladdin's mother went to meet the sultan. On the minister's advice the Sultan decided to ask her for a large dowry. "I agree to the marriage but your son must offer a dowry. He must give us forty fair servants and forty dark ones. And each slave should carry a vessel full of gold and precious stones," he said to the widow. She returned home rather sad.

21. When Aladdin heard about the Sultan's new condition, he said to his mother, "Don't worry, mother. My genie will arrange everything."

22. The genie of the lamp brought forty fair servants and forty dark servants, all of them in uniform. Each one of them carried a plate full of gold and rare jewels. Aladdin himself dressed like a prince.



He rode on a fine white horse with servants walking behind and in front of him. His mother wore a rich dress and she was attended by a few maids. As the wedding procession went on its way, the servants gave gold coins to the poor. The people of the city gathered in streets to watch the procession.

23. Aladdin's wedding with the princess was celebrated in a grand manner. The Sultan was very happy. There was great rejoicing in the city. Aladdin took his bride to a new palace built by the genie of the lamp. It was his wedding gift to his wife.

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

2	suggest	:	give an idea
5	faint (v)	:	lose consciousness
6	delicious (adj)	:	very nice
	dish (n)	:	item of food
7	give up (v)	:	stop doing ; leave
	' popular (adj)	:	liked by people
8	deserted (adj)	:	without people
11	' curious (adj)	:	eager to see
	' anxious (adj)	:	feeling of fear and doubt about future
15	en ' rage (v)	:	make very angry
16	con ' sult (v)	:	seek the advice of
18	' fortnight (n)	:	two weeks
	' furious (adj)	:	very angry
	' bridegroom (n)	:	a man just married or about to be married
20	dowry (n)	:	money, land etc., given to the bride or the bridegroom as a gift during marriage.
22	maid (n)	:	woman servant
	' wedding (n)	:	ceremony and feast at a marriage
	' celebrate the marriage (v)	:	perform the marriage
	rejoice (v)	:	feel glad
Note :	Translation	:	faint ; jewels ; dowry ; procession ; bridegroom.

FOOD FOR ALL

1. Once Jesus wanted to go to a lonely place to pray. So one day he set out in a boat along with his disciples. They came to a desert place. There they climbed a hill and sat down.

2. Some people saw Jesus departing in a boat. They told the others. Soon a large crowd of people from several towns followed Jesus. They came to the place where Jesus was sitting with his disciples. There were among the people who were blind, lame and deaf. Some of them were ill too. Jesus looked at them. 'These poor people have come a long way to see me,' he said to himself. His heart was filled with love for them. He stood up, raised his hands and blessed all of them. Then he spoke to them words of wisdom. He told them how to lead a good life.

3. It was afternoon. Jesus was still talking to the people. Some of his disciples walked up to him and said, "It is afternoon now. The people must be hungry. They haven't brought any food with them. Please send them to the villages nearby. They can buy some food for themselves."

4. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Haven't we any food with us? Let's give them some."

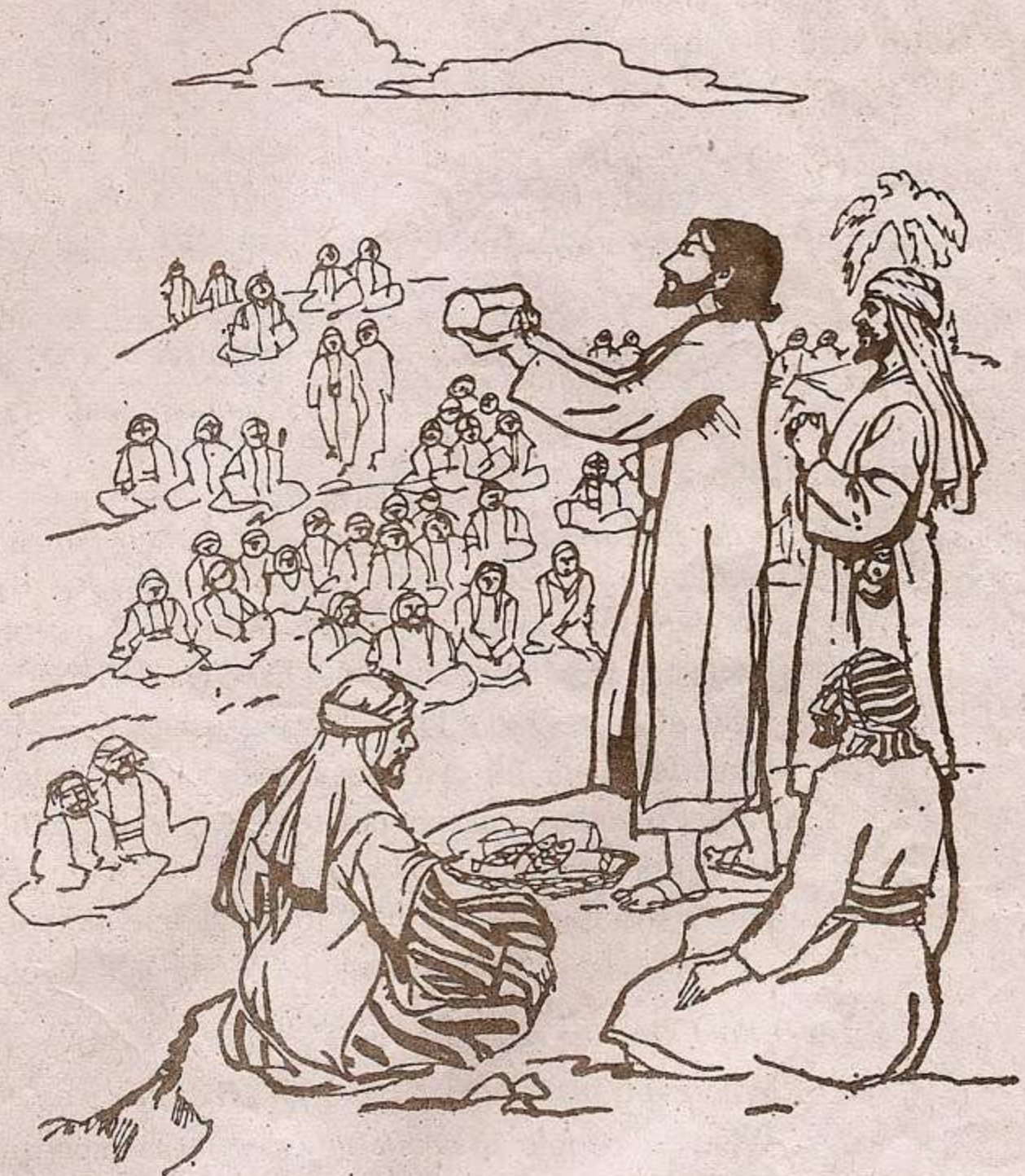
"But we haven't got food for so many people," said a disciple.

"And this is a desert. We can't get any food here," said another.

"How many people are there?" asked Jesus, looking at the people.

"There are about five thousand," said the disciples.

"How much bread have you got?" asked Jesus.



"Only seven loaves," they answered.

"Bring them here," said Jesus.

The disciples brought him the seven loaves of bread.

5. "How many fish have you got?" he asked the disciples.

"Only two small fish," they answered.

"Bring them to me," said Jesus.

The disciples gave him the fish in a basket.

6. Jesus asked the people to sit down on the green grass. And they sat in several lines. There were a hundred men in each line.

7. Then Jesus took the loaves of bread and the fish in his hands. He looked up at the sky and raised his hands in prayer. "O, Lord, Bless these people and give them food."

8. Then he gave the bread and the fish to his disciples. "Give these to the people," he said to them.

9. The disciples went to the people and gave food to every one of them. All of them - all the five thousand men, women and children ate.

10. And there were twelve baskets full of bread and fish left over!

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

1	lonely (<i>adj</i>)	:	where there are no people
	set out (<i>v</i>)	:	start on a journey
	'desert (<i>adj</i>)	:	without people
2	de'part (<i>v</i>)	:	go away
	disciples (<i>n</i>)	:	followers of a great teacher
4	loaves (<i>n</i>)	:	plural of 'loaf' - a large piece of bread.

II Comprehension :

1. Arrange the following events in the order of their happening. Mark 1 against the first event, 2 against the second, and so on. The first and the last sentence are done for you.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (a) Some people saw Jesus and his disciples departing in a boat. | () |
| (b) Jesus and his disciples did not have enough food to feed about five thousand people. | () |
| (c) Even after feeding all people, twelve baskets of food were left over. | Example : (8) |
| (d) Once Jesus and his disciples came to a desert place. | Example : (1) |
| (e) About five thousand people, men, women and children, came to see Jesus. | () |
| (f) Jesus asked his disciples to give food to all the people. | () |
| (g) As the disciples served food to the people more food came. | () |
| (h) Jesus prayed to God to bless the people and give them food. | () |

2. Answer the following questions in a sentence or two each :

- (1) Where did Jesus want to go? What did he want to do there? Who were with him?
- (2) What did people do when they saw Jesus departing in a boat?
- (3) Why did one of the disciples ask Jesus to send the people away?
- (4) How much food was there? Was it sufficient?
- (5) "Bring them to me" (para 5) Who said these words to whom? What does 'them' refer to? What else did he ask them to bring? What did he do with them?
- (6) What was Jesus' prayer to God?

THE SNARE

I hear a sudden cry of pain !
There is a rabbit in a snare ;
Now I hear the cry again
But I cannot tell from where.

But I cannot tell from where
He is calling out for aid ;
Crying on the frightened air ;
Making everything afraid.

Making everything afraid
Wrinkling up his face,
And he cries again for aid ;
And I cannot find the place !

And I cannot find the place
Where his paw is in the snare
Little One ! Oh, little one !
I am searching everywhere.

— *James Stephens*

I Notes and Meanings :

The poem describes the suffering of a rabbit caught in a trap. The speaker who hears its cry of pain is not able to find the place and is looking for it everywhere.

snare	:	a trap for catching an animal
aid	:	help
wrinkling	:	form lines or folds on the face

II Comprehension :

1. Who is crying in pain ? Why ?
2. Is the cry repeated ? Read the line which gives us the answer.
3. Can the speaker say where the cry is coming from ?
4. ' The air is filled with the fearful cries of the rabbit '. Read out the line which gives this meaning.
5. What does the rabbit cry for ?
6. What does the speaker feel sorry for ?
7. Why is he unable to help the rabbit ?
8. This is a sad poem. What words make you feel sad ?
9. What are the lines in the poem that are repeated ?

GANDHIJI'S BOYHOOD

1. Gandhiji is the father of our nation. He was a great man. He was famous not only in our country but all over the world. He led a simple life. He loved everyone. He believed in truth and non-violence. He got us our freedom. He is certainly one of the greatest men of our times.

2. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, was born at Porbandar on 2nd October, 1869. His father, Karamchand Gandhi, was a Member of the Rajasthani Court. He had no education but he had a lot of worldly wisdom. Later he became the Prime Minister at the court of the Raja of Rajkot. Mohandas's mother was a very pious and noble lady. She was very intelligent too.

3. When Mohandas was seven, his father moved to Rajkot. Mohandas was put in a primary school at Rajkot. He was a very shy boy. He never used to talk to the other boys at school. Soon after school he would run back home. He was not a very bright student. But he always spoke the truth. And he always showed respect to his teachers.

4. Here are a few incidents from his childhood days.

5. During his first year at High School, Mr. Giles, an Inspector of Schools, came on a visit to his school. He gave the boys a spelling exercise. He asked them to write down five words. One of the words was 'kettle'. Young Mohandas did not know the correct spelling of the word. So he made a mistake. The teacher noticed the mistake. Moving his toe on the floor, he showed Mohandas the correct spelling of the word. He wanted the boy to write down the word correctly. But Mohandas refused to 'copy' the word. 'Copy the correct spelling of the word from your neighbour', the teacher whispered to him.

6. But Mohandas was surprised. "The teacher wants me to 'copy' from my neighbour's book. How can he ask me to do such a thing!" he said to himself. Young Mohandas felt it was wrong to 'copy' from others' books.

7. "How stupid you are! You don't listen to my words" the teacher scolded him later.

8. But Mohandas had great respect for his teacher.



9. Mohandas only read class books. He always did his homework but his mind was not in his work. He was not fond of reading books. But one day he found a book on his father's table. It was the story of Shravan, a young man who served his parents with great love. He also watched a play on the story of Shravan. He was very much impressed by it.

10. Do you know the story of Shravan ? Here is the story in brief. Shravan's parents were very old. And both of them were blind. They wanted to visit all places of pilgrimage. So he carried them in slings from place to place. His parents were happy with him. One hot day he was taking them through a forest. His parents felt thirsty and asked for some water. Shravan went to a pond nearby to fetch them some water. At the same time King Dasaratha of Ayodhya was in the forest. He was hunting wild animals. When Shravan was collecting water in a vessel, he heard the noise. He thought that some wild animal was drinking water. Being an expert archer, Dasaratha shot an arrow in that direction. The arrow struck Shravan and he cried in pain. King Dasaratha went to Shravan only to find that he was dying. Shravan requested Dasaratha to take the water to his parents and died. The old parents were very sad to learn about their son's death. They cursed Dasaratha and died.

11. Shravan's love for his parents impressed Mohandas very much. Mohandas watched another play when he was young. It was the story of Harischandra. Harischandra was a king who gave up every thing, his kingdom, even his wife and only son, for the sake of truth. This play made a great impression on the life of Mohandas. King Harischandra's love of truth became his ideal. He never forgot the plays of Shravan and Harischandra. He read them again and again. When he grew up, he lived up to the ideals of truth and non-violence.

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

1	'nation (n)	:	country
	'famous (adj)	:	well known
	non-violence (n)	:	not using force
	'certainly (adv)	:	without any doubt
2	'wisdom (n)	:	great knowledge
	pious (adj)	:	showing deep respect to God
4	'incident (n)	:	happening
5	neighbours (n)	:	persons who live near one another
7	'stupid (adj)	:	foolish
9	was impressed by it	:	admired it ; liked it very much
10	'thirsty (v)	:	felt the need to drink water
	'vessel (n)	:	pot
	'expert (adj)	:	trained by practice ; skilful
	'archer (n)	:	one who is skilled in shooting arrows
	curse (v)	:	call down evil upon someone

A BRAVE LAD

1. This is not a story. It is a real incident that took place in 1979. The hero of the incident is young Govindan.

2. Govindan was a student of Class VIII of Kurubarapalli High School in Tamil Nadu. He was the class leader and was very popular with the boys of his class. He was very fond of his English teacher, Mrs. Chitralekha.

3. Every day after school, Govindan and his friend Ravi met at the old Nataraja temple near their village. But on September 3, 1979, they did not meet at the temple. Govindan was to do something daring that day. His daring act that day brought him an award from the Prime Minister.

4. As the school bell rang for the day, the English teacher called Govindan and said "Take these exercise books and leave them at my house." With the books under his arm, he came out of the classroom and looked around. He saw the paddy fields, the tall coconut palms, the winding highway and the distant 'gopuram' of the Nataraja temple. They were always a source of delight to him.

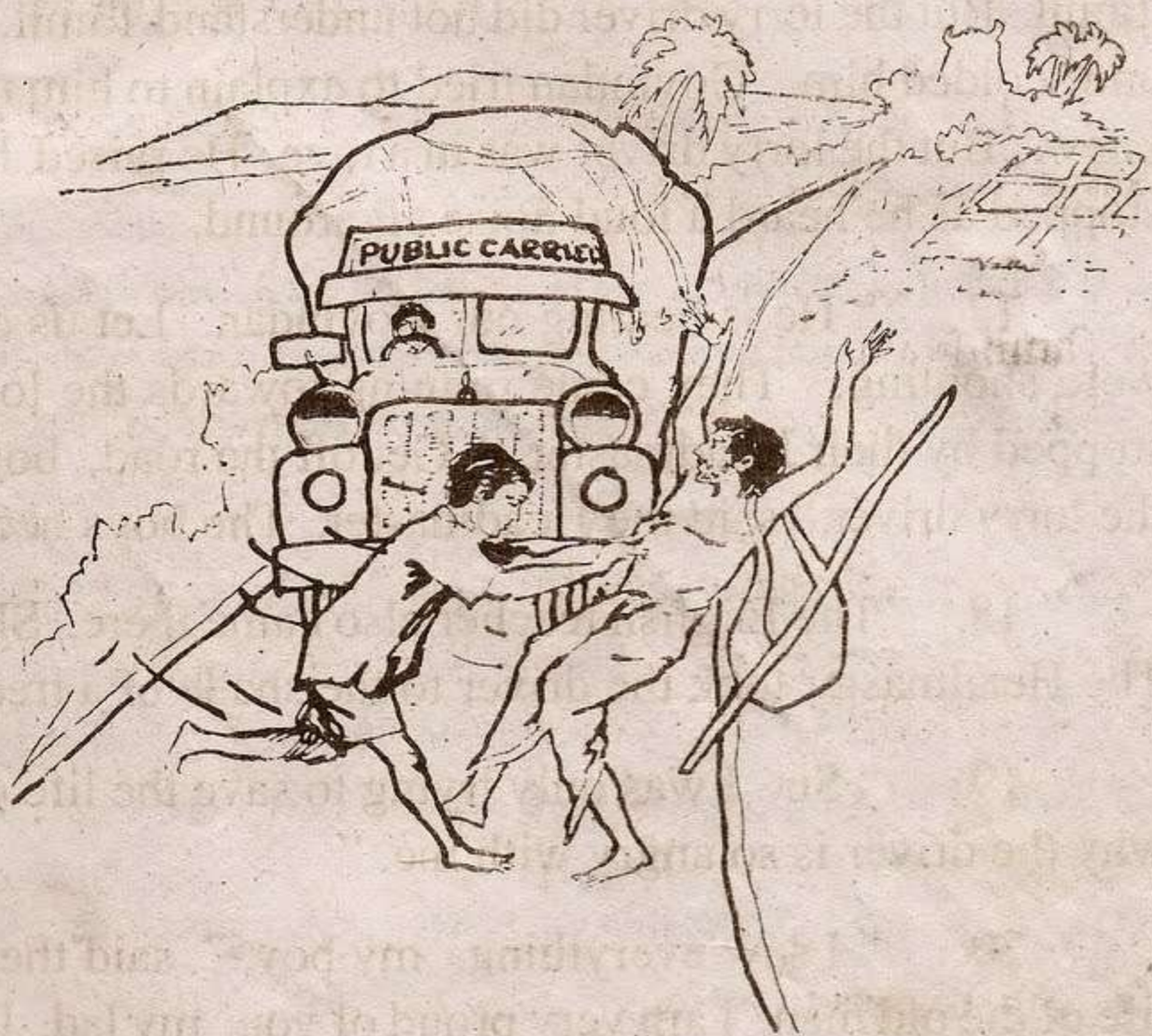
5. Then Govindan saw a truck parked on the road in front of the school. From behind the truck appeared an old man with a walking stick in his hand. He wore an old piece of cloth round his waist. There was a bowl in his hand. An old beggar! Govindan felt pity for him. He searched his pockets to give him a coin. But his pockets were empty. He felt sorry for the old man.

6. Just then he heard the noise of a motor-engine at some distance. He looked at the highway and noticed a lorry coming down the hill at great speed. "There is a sharp bend ahead of the lorry driver. So he will not be able to notice either the truck or the old man. And the lorry is coming down the highway at great speed. There's going to be a terrible accident," thought Govindan. He shivered with fear at the thought.

7. "Watch out, old man! A lorry is coming towards you," he shouted, to warn the old man. Then he knew how foolish he was. The old man was blind! He would not know which way to go.

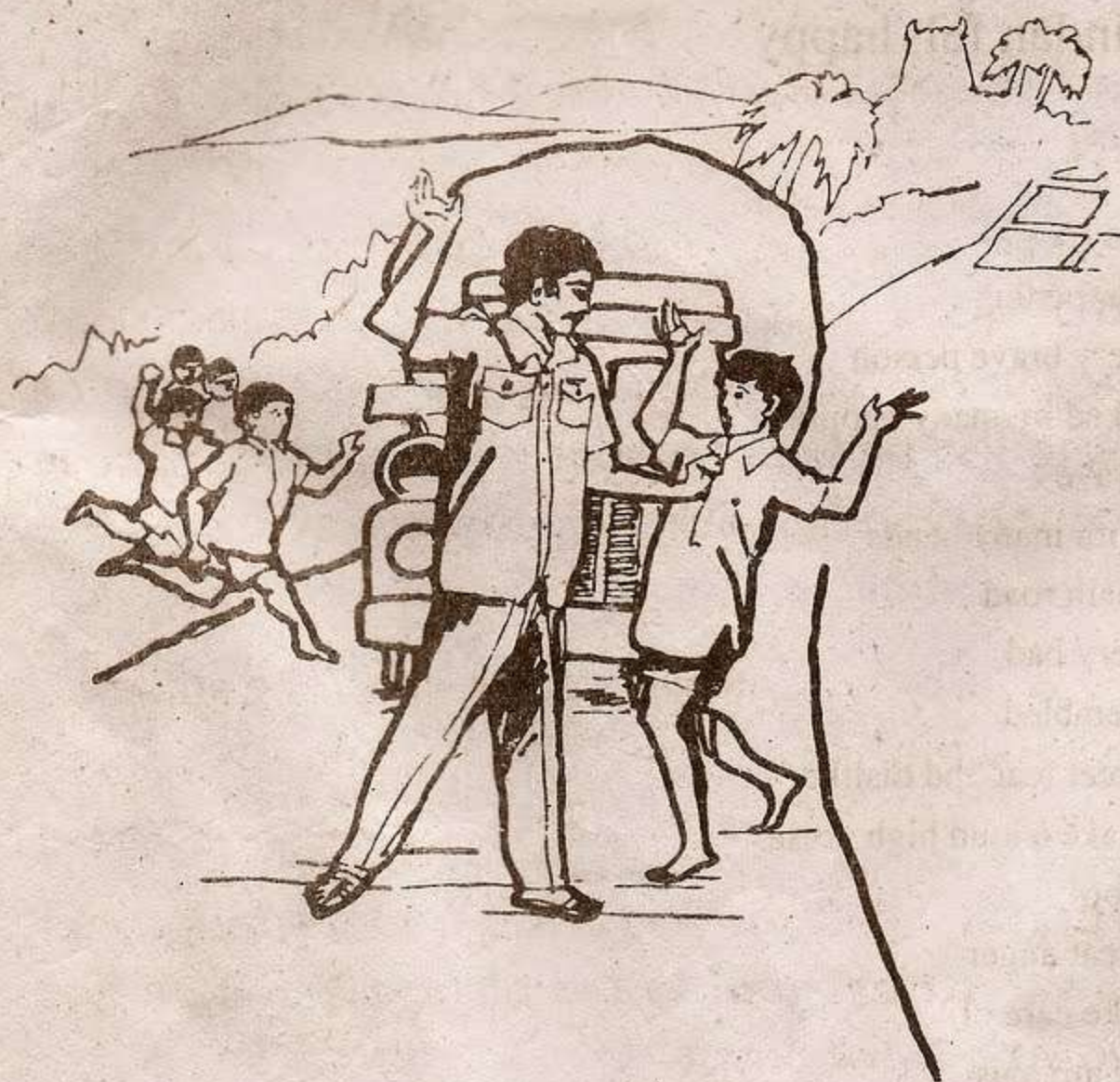
8. Govindan saw to his horror, that the lorry was coming at greater speed than before. He ran across the school-yard to the edge of the road and shouted, "Stop the lorry! Slow down! Slow down!"

9. The lorry driver was puzzled. "Is this boy crazy? Does he want a lift in my lorry? Or is he going to cross the road?" With these questions troubling him, he shouted in anger "Don't cross the road, you fool. You'll be crushed to death." He blew the horn and slammed his foot down on the brakes.



10. Govindan raced across the road very fast and dragged the old man away along with him. They tumbled on the ground and fell a few feet away from

the road. Govindan dragged the old man on to himself as he fell. So the old man was not hurt. Govindan hurt his knee and his cheek. But he was glad that he had saved the old man's life.



11. The lorry screeched past them. It came to a halt a few yards away from them. They had both narrowly escaped death!

12. "What's happening? Where's my walking-stick?" cried the old man.

13. "Don't worry, grandfather. I'll find your stick for you. Thank God! We are both out of danger now," said Govindan.

14. Govindan helped the old man to his feet and led him to a side of the road. Then he looked round for the old man's stick.

15. Then he saw the lorry driver coming towards him. His eyes were red with anger.

16. "Sir, please listen. Let me explain," said Govindan. He spoke in Tamil. But the lorry driver did not understand Tamil. He caught hold of Govindan and scolded him. Govindan tried to explain to him using the little English that he knew. But the lorry driver was in a rage. He raised his hand to beat Govindan but stopped as he heard a loud noise all around.

17. "He is beating our Govindan. Let us catch him," the school boys were shouting. They came running towards the lorry driver. They were soon stopped by their Headmaster. "Get off the road, boys. Be quiet. I will speak to the lorry driver," said the Headmaster. The boys became quiet.

18. The English teacher also came there. She attended to the old beggar. The Headmaster took the driver to the shade of a tree.

19. "Sir, I was only trying to save the life of the old man. I don't know why the driver is so angry with me."

20. "I saw everything, my boy," said the Headmaster. You saved the life of the old man. I am very proud of you, my lad. Don't worry. I'll speak to the lorry driver.

21. The Headmaster spoke to the driver. He told him about Govindan's brave act. The lorry driver understood Govindan now. He admired him for his courage. "I am sorry, Govindan. You have saved the life of a man. God bless you," he said to Govindan. Govindan felt happy.

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

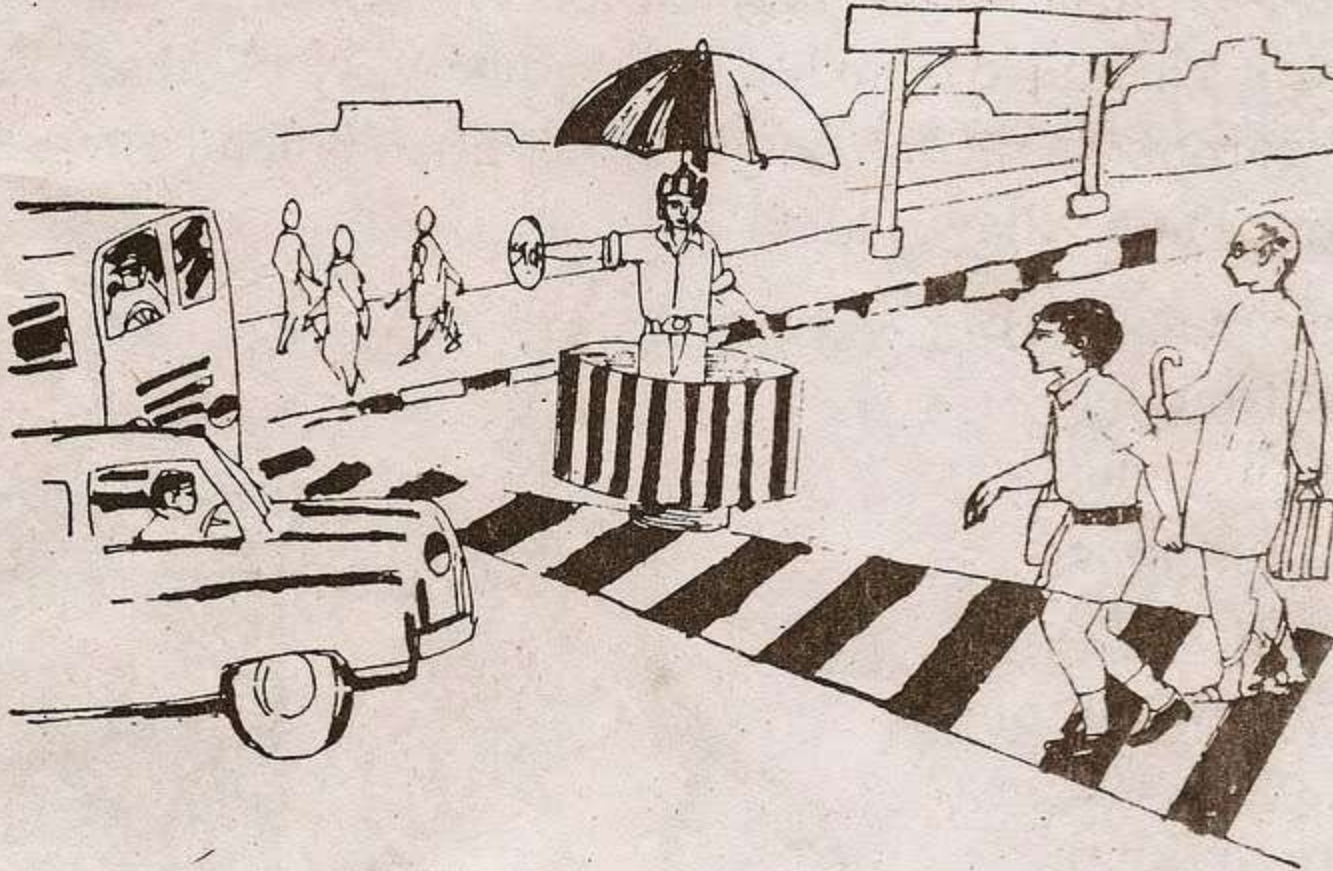
1	lad (n)	:	boy
	'incident (n)	:	happening
	'hero (n)	:	very brave person
2	'popular (adj)	:	liked by many people
3	'daring (adj)	:	brave
4	'winding (adj)	:	with many bends
	'highway (n)	:	main road
6	'terrible (adj)	:	very bad
	shivered (v)	:	trembled
8	'horror (n)	:	great fear and dislike
11	'screech (v)	:	make a loud high noise
	halt (n)	:	stop
16	rage (n)	:	great anger
18	attend (v)	:	take care of
20	'worry (v)	:	be anxious
21	ad'mire (v)	:	look upon with pleasure
	Illustration	:	waist ; bowl ; highway

SAFETY FIRST

Up the street I look to see
If any traffic's near to me ;
Down the street I look as well,
And listen for a horn or bell.

There's something coming — wait a bit !
If I run out I may be hit !
But now the road is really clear,
No car or motor bus is near,
I'll run across the road so wide
Hurrah ! I'm safe the other side !

— Enid Blyton



I Notes and Meanings :

In this poem a clever boy tells us about the care he takes while crossing the road.

traffic : movement of people and vehicles on roads
hur'rah : a shout of joy

II Comprehension :

1. What does the boy look to see ?
2. What does he listen for ?
3. What does he do when something is coming ? Why should he do it ?
4. When does he run across the road ?
5. Does he reach the other side safely ?
6. Find words in the poem that rhyme with the following words
see well bit near side

SAINT TYAGARAJA

1. Tyagaraja was a gifted musician. He was also a great composer of songs. He composed as many as seven hundred songs in Telugu. There were three great composers in Carnatic music. They were, Tyagaraja, Shyama Sastri and Muthuswami Dikshitar. Among them Tyagaraja was the greatest and most famous. Tyagaraja was also a great saint. He was a great devotee of Lord Rama, whom he worshipped in his house every day. He even had 'darshan' of the Lord.

2. Tyagaraja was born at Tiruvarur in Tanjavur District of Tamil Nadu on May 4, 1767. He was the third child of his parents, Ramabrahmam and Sitamma. They spoke Telugu at home. Tyagaraja had an elder brother called Panchapakesan or Jalpesan.

3. There was music in Tyagaraja's blood. His mother was a good singer. He had his first lessons in music from her. His father was a good scholar in Telugu and Sanskrit. He learnt both the languages from him. When he was seven years old, the family moved to a village called Tiruvaiyar.

4. Tyagaraja was interested in music from his childhood. Even as a young boy he used to compose songs and write them on the walls of his house. Noticing his son's interest in music, his father took him to Sonti Venkataramayya, a musician at the Court of King Sarabhoji of Tanjavur. Tyagaraja became his disciple and learnt music from him :

5. When he grew up he spent most of his time composing songs and singing them in front of the idol of Lord Rama in his house.



He married at the age of eighteen. He had only one child, a daughter named Sitalakshmi. Once a week, he went along the streets singing songs in praise of God and maintained his family with what people gave him. He never cared for wealth. He did not want to join the royal court. But his elder brother, Jalpesan, wanted him to earn money through his music.

6. One day the Raja of Tanjavur invited Tyagaraja to sing in his court. He offered him a gift of fifty acres of land and a lot of gold coins. But Tyagaraja refused to sing in the King's Court. Jalpesan, his elder brother, was wild with anger. "Your Rama is not going to give you food. Why don't you sing in the King's Court? We can be rich and live a happy life," he said to Tyagaraja. But Tyagaraja did not heed his brother's words. Jalpesan took the idol of Lord Rama and threw it into the river Kaveri. Not finding his deity at home, Tyagaraja was in great sorrow. He composed many songs in praise of Lord Rama and sang them with great feeling. After two months he had a dream. In his dream, he saw the place where his idol of Lord Rama was lying. The next morning he went to the place, found the idol and brought it back home. In a joyful mood, he sang many fine songs in praise of his deity.

7. One morning a Sanyasin came to his house to listen to his music. He had a bundle with him. "I shall have a bath in the river Kaveri and come back for my lunch. Let this bundle be here," he said to Tyagaraja and left. But the Sanyasin never returned. Tyagaraja waited the whole day without food. That night he had a dream. The Sanyasin appeared in the dream and said, "I am the sage Narada. I came to you this morning. I brought a present for you. It's in the bundle that I left in your house." Tyagaraja opened the bundle and found some rare books on music.

8. In his old age, Tyagaraja set out on a pilgrimage. He went to Tirupathi to have 'darshan' of Lord Venkateshwara. In the temple he saw a curtain in front of the image of Lord Venkateshwara. He could not see the Lord's image. He was disappointed. Then he sang a song expressing a strong desire to see the Lord. As he sang, the curtain parted and he had 'darshan' of Lord Venkateshwara.

9. On his way from Tirupathi, Tyagaraja came to a place called Puttur. He saw a large crowd at a place. He heard a woman crying loudly. "Why is she crying?" he asked a man in the crowd. "A pilgrim is dead. His wife is crying in grief" said the man. Tyagaraja and his disciples sang a song. Then Tyagaraja sprinkled some Tulsi water on the dead body. Lo! The man sat up as if he had just got up from sleep!

10. Once Tyagaraja was passing through a forest in the course of his pilgrimage. He was travelling in a palanquin. At night a gang of robbers followed him. Tyagaraja came to know of it and prayed to Lord Rama. Then two young men appeared on the scene. With their arrows they drove the robbers away.

11. After his pilgrimage, Tyagaraja returned to Tiruvaiyur and spent the rest of his days there. He composed songs in praise of his deity and sang them with great devotion. One day, when he was eighty years old, he said to his disciples, "I am going to join my Lord Rama tomorrow." The next day he passed away.

12. But Tyagaraja lives through his music. He is as popular today as he was two hundred years ago. Today Tiruvaiyur is a place of pilgrimage for musicians. In the month of January every year, musicians from all over South India gather at Tiruvaiyur to sing his songs and show their regard to the great saint musician.

I Notes and Meanings :

Para No.

1	'gifted (<i>adj</i>)	:	having great natural ability
	musician (<i>n</i>)	:	person skilled in music
	composer (<i>n</i>)	:	person who makes songs
	'saint (<i>n</i>)	:	holy person
	'Lord (<i>n</i>)	:	God (Rama here)
2	in his blood	:	a quality with which many members of the same family are born
5	main'tain (<i>v</i>)	:	support
6	wild (<i>adj</i>)	:	fierce, uncontrolled
	heed (<i>v</i>)	:	give attention to
	idol (<i>n</i>)	:	image worshipped as God
	'deity (<i>n</i>)	:	God
7	'present (<i>n</i>)	:	gift
	rare (<i>adj</i>)	:	not often found ; valuable
8	'curtain (<i>n</i>)	:	a piece of hanging cloth to cover something
	parted (<i>v</i>)	:	was drawn aside
9	grief (<i>n</i>)	:	great sorrow
	'sprinkle (<i>v</i>)	:	throw water on to
10	pilgrimage (<i>n</i>)	:	journey to a holy place
	gang (<i>n</i>)	:	group
	robber (<i>n</i>)	:	one who takes others' property by force
11	pass away (<i>v</i>)	:	die
	'popular (<i>adj</i>)	:	liked by people
	'gather (<i>v</i>)	:	come together
	re'gard (<i>n</i>)	:	respect